Arts, music, books



Everything But The Girl, take two

Out of the bedsit, into the jungle

Music, page 6

Family ends private murder prosecution as judge rules out vital evidence



Lawrence's father, Neville, left, and entit theryl Stoley, centre, being comforted by family friend Ros Howelli Visterday Photogram SEAN SMITH

Anger after race case conapse

Campaigners vow to fight on after three men cleared

Vivok Chaudhary

Principal State of the Control of th

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AMPAIGNERS and lawyers representing the family of murdered black teenager Stephen Lawrence vowed to continue with inquiries into his death after the case against three men accused of his killing collapsed at the Old Bailey yesterday. There were emotional scenes at the court following

the family's decision to drop their private prosecution of the men after Mr Justice Curtis ruled on Wednesday that



Gary Dobson: a knife was found at girlfriend's home



Shortly afterwards, Mr Justice Curtis instructed the jury foremen to formally acquit Neil Acourt, aged 20. Luke Knight, aged 18, and Gary Dobson, aged 20. They had denied that they, with others, murdered the death at a hustic was stabled to death at a hustic was suggested was responsible for the murder."

The likelihood is we would proceed with another private proceed with another private and the proceed with another private proced with another tis ruled on Wednesday that vital eyewitness evidence was inadmissible.

Michael Mansfield QC, prosecuting, told the court that without the evidence there was "no reliable basis" for any jury to convict the men.

Knight, aged 18, and Gary Dobson, aged 20. They had definally's solicitor, said after the acquittals: "Because not murdered Mr Lawrence, who guilty verdicts were entered, was stabbed to death at a bus stop in Eltham, south east [the three men] ever again.

The court had been told inquiry continues, and if any should be met from central continues.



extreme racist in video film



the private murder prosecu-tion, the fourth in 130 years, after the Crown Prosecution Service dropped proceedings against two white men in July 1993, saying there was insufficient evidence to secure a conviction. Neville Lawrence said yes

funds. Mr Lawrence's parents, Neville and Doresn, had raised around £70,000

through donations to bring

terday: "I believe in fairness. I don't think what happened today is fair at all." His wife was too distressed to attend

Mr Khan said the family were "extremely disap-pointed" that the judge had ruled out vital evidence from a witness who claimed to have seen the defendants take part in Mr Lawrence's mur-der. "We would have hoped the identification evidence could be put before the jury -something that happens in almost every other case. It is rare for a judge to make the decision but he did."

Defence and prosecution counsel had spent almost seven days locked in legal ar-turn to page 2, column 3

£5bn VAT blow for ministers

AND NOW I'VE JUST COT BLOOD OUT OF THIS STONE.

ous retailer, Kingsway Furni-ture Group, said his client was due £10 million including

interest. "Just think of all the

interest-free credit over the years. Including interest go-

ng back all that time it must

In the past five years alone

shops have provided free

credit worth more than £3 billion on furniture, electrical

according to the Retail Con-

sortium, which said that one

in six credit deals had

charged no interest. Similar

deals on car purchases could easily double that sum.

The case, decided on Euro-

pean law, infuriated Conservative Eurosceptics, who said

be £5 billion.

HE Government was thrown into fresh chaos last night after its hopes of a vote-winning Budget were threatened by a Court of Appeal ruling that could cost the Treasury up to £5 billion

The judgment also added to the furore over the impact of European law, further anger-

ing Eurosceptic MPs.
In the wake of this week's climbdown over beef and the rebellion on the divorce bill, the new blow to the Govern-ment added to backbench gloom about the Conservative party's chances of clawing back Labour's huge lead in

the opinion polls. The Treasury said it would appeal to the House of Lords against yesterday's ruling by o senior judges that a Cus-ns provision which has been in force since VAT was introduced in 1973 is wrong in its treatment of interest-free credit deals. As a result shops which have had to pay excess VAT for 23 years can now

apply for repayments. Customs and Excise officials were working through the night to analyse the full cost to the public purse of the judgment. A spokeswoman said it was impossible to esti-mate the amount the Government might have to pay back, but counsel for Customs admitted during the appeal

hearing the sum would run to

was decided on a European tor who acted for the victori-

billions of pounds. Hugh Mainprice, the solici-

the election. specialist with accountants Ernst & Young, said: "My understanding is that the case

difficult for Customs & Excise to appeal. It looks us if they have lost fair and square." David Heathcoat-Amory.

the Paymaster General, said last night the 15 billion figure was "wildly exaggerated and tion by Customs or Treasury" Bill Cash, a leading Conser-vative backbench Euro-sceptic, said: "If it does mean a multi-billion pound payback. combined with the potentially devastating blow if the European Union wins a massive slaughter policy would be a substantial setback to our chances of winning the election with tax cuts." He added: "We need a complete evaluation of the impact of European policies on British sov-

ereignty, government and commerce. Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, said: "This is another example of Government

Last night, the Treasury said it could not give a figure for the potential cost to the Government's finances. which have already been hit goods and similar products, by the slowdown in the economy. In the financial year tha ended in March, the Public Sector Borrowing Require-50 per cent higher than originally estimated, reducing chances of a huge tax give-away in the Budget.

Yesterday's decision, the it could cost the Government the election.

Peter Jenkins, a VAT be followed by even more serious rulings. One pending case concerning VAT on com-pany cars could cost the Govdirective. That makes it very and £25 billion.

Magistrate's rough justice laid before the Queen

Owen Bowcott

NostalGIA will get us all in the end. The Queen, who enjoyed attending juvenile courts as a youngster, had her wish to return to the public benches granted yesterday trates staged a private ses-sion of judicial theatre.

Whether by custom or constitutional imperative. constitutional imperative, the monarch does not attend hearings where justice is being done in her name, and Her Majesty was apparently itching to get a good view of the action. No chance.

The compromise arranged by Rosemary Thomson, chairwoman of the Council of Magistrates

Council of Magistrates Association, was to book a day at Maidenhead court with a full training session. The pretend trials in-cluded a drink-driving case, death by dangerous driving and wife-battering. Lawyers, policemen and relatives of court clerks

played the roles. One hearing re-enacted a real case in which a youth had stolen a royal coat of arms. Her Majesty, repor-

tedly, was amused. Comment and Letters 8 Oblimaries 10

Arts 4/5; Books 9/13; Radio 16; TV 16

Prague Writers' Festival 1996 This year the Prague Writers' Festival, directed

by Michael March, will once again showcase a selection of fine authors from around the world. Meet them at the Viola Theatre, Narodni 7, (nearest metro Narodni) from May 9-11. For more details call: 44 171 7134133

Thursday May 9

Sylva Fischerová - Czech Republic Andrzej Sosnowski - Poland Evelyn Schlag - Austria Nuno Júdice - Portugal

Friday May 10

Paul Durcan - Ireland John F. Deane - Ireland James Kelman - Scotland R.S. Thomas - Wales

Saturday May 11 Ewald Murrer - Czech Republic Jim Barnes - USA Abdullah al-Udhari - Yemen

Natan Zach - Israel

Sponsored by

The Guardian

MPs threaten to mangle divorce bill

Patrick Wintour, Chief Political Correspondent

REELING Conservative leadership was yester-day under pressure from senior backbenchers to wednesday night's Commons defeat inflicted with the help of four Cabinet ministers. The Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay, ruled out shelving the bill, despite backbench calls, led by John Patten, to recognise belatedly that the bill remained anti-family and massively unpopular with the

the Government agrees to in-ject a new emphasis on mar-riage reconciliation and the needs of children, it may vote against the bill's third read-ing in June. It is impossible to predict how many Tories would be reckless enough to vete against the entire bill at that third reading.

before divorce is granted.

Mr Major said his entire party, including ministers, had been given a genuinely free vote, claiming Mr Blair and his henchmen did not understand the parliamen-

tary concept of a free vote.
The Liberal Democrats, and

pression of a government in advanced stages of disintegra-tion, told Mr Major the bill had been about the Government's entire ethos, asserting the vote showed "the humilisting state to which your au-thority has been reduced".

But Mr Major pointed out that at the time of the Queen's Mackay, ruled out shelving that fhird reading.

In the Commons, John lands, in private some Labour MPs, speech last November, he had initially of granted to give a free vote on the two key personal continuity and party.

An unholy alliance of Labour and Conservative misleading to interpret in reduce Tory backbench de labour and Conservative misleading to interpret in reduce Tory backbench de labour that the time of the Queen's was a legitimate target single that at the time of the Queen's promised to give a free vote on the two key personal continuity and granted the free vote on the two key personal continuity and served length of removing the concept of fault from divorce and the leader comment, page 8; Leader comment, page 8; Leader comment, page 8; Leader comment, page 8; Leader comment, page 9.

rightwingers, led by Edward | Wednesday night's free vote | termination to mount further | "I gave my word and have | Leigh, are set to mangle the | as a humilistion for his government. The 200-196 vote except | In the Commons Mr Blair, science, and matters relating to church and conscience, to church and conscience, perhaps you will indicate that it doesn't apply when you see political advantage."

Labour sources, however, insisted Wednesday's vote was a legitimate target since the Cabinet had initially only granted the free vote on the two central planks of the hill

two central planks of the bill because of the deep Tory div-

Sketch

Divided by a common language



Simon Hoggart

T'S curious that as the policies of the main parties move closer — with the two sides becoming indistinguishable, like the pigs and the men at the end of Animal Farm debate in the Commons is in-

creasingly riotous. Take home affairs. Jack Straw hasn't yet called for capital punishment in schools. but he might any day, and Michael Howard will cap it with the return of the thumbscrew. He will need to, since each party is terrified of being thought soft on crime.

The words they dread hear-ing are the Home Secretary declaring on TV: "It was the Libber Party which voted aginst public disimbowelling for litter bugs! You kinnot trust Libber on krimm!"

Because the parties are really so close, they have to pretend that there is a bottom less policy chasm between them. For instance, yesterday Tony Banks (Lab, Newham NW) complained that Britain now had more video cameras spying on its citizens than any other country, including the old Eastern Europe. This was a condemnation of 17 years of Tory rule, etc etc.

Mr Howard plunged into an effluvium of outrage. "Thire spikks the true voice of the Libber Party!" he yelled. "Antediluvian views while Kinnsivattives trying to reduce krimm . . . you kinnot trust Libber on krime!" (He

David Evans (C, Welwyn) is the boor who, misguidedly, thinks of himself as a much-loved national figure, the embodiment of the common man. He is really the embodiment of a pecvish pig. He demanded identity cards to stop illegal immigrants from drawing

"Bu' if tha' lo' opposi'e . . .'
(Mr Evans doesn't just have glottal stops; he has glottal seizures) "... ever get ter pahr, inflation will be 26 poin' nine

First night

ALLACE SHAWN's new play, the Desig-nated Mourner, is a

minimalist work not unlike

action, no instant narrative,

just talk. Yet it is an extraordi

nary and haunting piece abou the nature of America, in par-

ticular about the contest be-tween an isolated patrician

culture and an answering

We are greeted at the Cottes loe, in David Hare's produc-

tion, by a long trestle table laden with books. Behind the

table sit three characters who address us and occasionally

each other. Jack is a college

Rembrandt and poetry but

who is plagued by his own insecure sense of identity.

Alongside him sit his wife,

Judy, and his famous father-

through the rarefied world of

in-law, Howard, who have always moved effortlessly

literature, the arts and the finer products of Western civilisation.

Jack seems to conjure up the memory of the other two

and it gradually emerges that he is the designated mourner

at the death of their particular world. We realise that the

despised underclass - what a

sociologist once called the "ad-

mass" — has revolted against the elitist values of its privi-

Judy and their kind have been

imprisoned, blood has flowed

in engulfing rivers, people have been executed. Shawn,

leged superiors. Howard,

graduate who has always

eigned an interest in

spiritual fascism.

My Dinner with Andre: no

again and tax will soon be niney-eigh' per cen', and we'll need ID's not jus' ter show who's got the righ' ter be 'ere but ter show the guards to get art of 'erel" A few Tories cheered wanly; Mr Evans's rant is a wasting asset.

Austin Mitchell (Lab. Grimsby) said that robbery had increased 484 per cent since the Conservatives came Home Office minister, blame Tony Blair. (Mr Blair once drew a distinction between poverty-stricken mothers shoplifting for food, and orga-

thought tough on krimm.)
It was too much for Mr Banks. "They're all barking mad!" he shouted, and: "Hang him!" (Mr Banks is tough on Conservatism, tough on the causes of Conservatism.)
By now half the House seemed to be shouting demen

edly at the other half. But there was something missing. We had not heard from Ann Widdecombe, the Home Office minister popularly known as Doris Karloff, or Bella Lugosi, or Glad the Impaler. She spoke on prisons, after Liz Lynne (Lib Dem, Rochdale) nad asked why denizens of a local Group 4-run prison kept climbing over the wall into

"She is insulting the prison staff!" she yelled. "It is time she looked at their achieve-ments!" After all, in a nearempty prison, there are few left to applaud them. Mr Howard wrapped up

with his tough new sentencing policy, which he contrasted with Tony Blair. "The Lidder of the Opposition his been go ing up and down the kintry making speeches which excuse shoplifting. He will go down in hist'ry as the Pilfar-

One wonders how hist'ry will describe it: 'Mr Tony Blair (b. 1953) was usually known as "The Pilferer's Friend'. The violent crime wave which engulfed Britain in the 1990s was blamed on his view that there were worse crimes than nicking a few Rolos for your kid . . ."
"String 'em all up," said Mr Banks, of nobody specific.

Later Douglas Hogg made a remarkably calm and placid statement. The theory here is that they've been mixing Pro-zac into the mashed sheep

tic world which has seen what Jack calls "the disembowell-

What is remarkable about Shawn's play — or series of intercut monologues — is its

evenness of tone and sense of istorical determinism

Shawn recognises the value of

those who hug it to themselves

as if it were their own. He also

understands the deprivation

of those who are locked out of

the secret garden, yet bewails the descent into barbarism of

a society where "everyone on earth who could read John

Dunne was dead". Shawn denies us many of

the conventional satisfactions

of drama but what he has to say is crucial: that we live in a

world that preserves high cul-ture for the few, that is leading

to a dumbing-down of the

ages. His prime target is

clearly America with its cre-

ative of protected pases of cul-

tures in a desert of rank commercialism. But almost

Jack, breaking down into tear sodden regret for what is lost;

by Miranda Richardson as his wife cocooned in her own

world of finer feelings; and by David de Keyser as the father-

in-law who represents the in-

sulated smugness of the poetic sensibility. Shawn has written

an unnerving tract for our

times that equates spiritual and political fascism.

This review appeared in later editions yesterday,

high culture vet condemns

ing of the over-bowelled".

Fascism echoes

patrician culture

Michael Billington in fact, envisions an apocalyptic world which has a second property of the world which has a second

More attacks expected before Ulster elections Second failure for 'impaired' mainland operation

Bridge bomb IRA's biggest

Duncen Campbell, Richard Norton-Taylor an David Sharrock in Dublin

HE IRA stepped up ts bombing campaign in England taining the most powerful explosives ever used in a mainland bomb. Security cources said last night that other hombs aimed at the transport infrastructure could be expected before the elections in Northern Ireland next month.

The bomb placed under Hammersmith Bridge in west London on Wednesday night would have caused massive damage and disruption but failed to detonate properly. No one was injured in the The quantity of explosives indicates that the IRA is still

fore the elections in Northern reland on May 30. Previously it had appeared that it merely wanted to cause minor disruption to show that it was active, without derailing the

Deace process The device planted under the south side of the bridge contained 30lb of high explo-sive, understood to be Semtex, which was to have been detonated by two blasts. A spokeswoman for Scotland Yard said it highlighted the need for the public to remain vigilant.

caused a very large explosion and there's no doubt that they were made to kill, cause in jury and major structura damage to Hammersmith Bridge as well as enormous disruption to London and its



two coded telephone warnings, the first at 10.22pm. The area was cordoned off and there were two small explosions at 10.50pm. The delainers the size of a briefcase. The detonators did not ignite the explosives. This is

first being when IRA man Ed O'Brien was blown up on the 171 bus at the Aldwych on

The double failure is taken to indicate that the IRA's bomb-making operation on the mainland is impaired.

bomb has malfunctioned, the | been suggested in the past, that the operation was delib-erately sabotaged.

The bomb was placed on the anniversary of the Easter Ris-ing in Dublin on April 24 1916. Security sources said yes-terday they expected further attacks on a variety of targets to apply pressure on the Gov-

ernment. They speculated that the Aldwych incident, and the discovery of documents and bomb-making equipment at O'Brien's flat. may have forced the IRA to use less experienced activists. In Dublin, all parties condemned the bomb as unhelpful to the peace process. David Adams, of the Ulster Democratic Party, the loyalist group which has strong links with the paramilitary Ulster Defence Association, did not, however, believe that it would jeopardise the loyalist

The IRA is believed to hold about two tonnes of Semtex. Given that the average IRA bomb requires only a few pounds to prime the much larger quantities of home-made explosives, the IRA may be demonstrating it has the resources for a long campaign

US plans rapid exit from Bosnia

David Fairball, and Martin Walker

HE first outlines of a United States exit-plan for its forces in Bosnia are emerging, with a Euron-led operation remaining in the former Yugoslav repub-lic but US backup ready to come to the rescue if

Under a proposal now being circulated, US rapid reaction forces would be based in Hun-gary, and US air power would be available to any Nato forces staying in Bosnia after the alliance's peace-imple-mentation mandate runs out

at the end of this year.
Although the Nato allies remain publicly committed to an "in together, stay together, out together" formula, with the pull-out set for December, no one believes the process of political and economic reconstruction can be completed by

But any follow-on operation. must reconcile the contradictory demands of the US Congress, which wants its boys home on time, and of the Europeans — notably the British government — who insist that US ground forces

must continue to be involved.

The Hungarian option whereby US forces which arrived from bases in Germany withdraw, but only just across the border from northern Bosnia - is being explored in Brussels as a possble way out of the bind.

There is a growing consencommunity cannot simply pack up its bags and quit Bosnia at the end of the year, said a Nato diplomat attending



US soldiers patrol Caparde, near Tuzia, stopping Bosnian Muslims from entering a Serb-held area to visit their former homes Ристовари: уалм синда

this week's meetings of the military committee. "There will be an ongoing need for peacekeeping troops for some further time."

In Whitehall yesterday, officials were not prepared to dis-cuss the Hungarian plan, except to dismiss "speculation". Ministers remain publicly committed to withdrawing the present Nato force by December 20, the deadline set by last year's

less US ground forces were also involved. The 19,000 US troops are expected to be home within a month of the December 20 deadline.

Yet British military sources also acknowledge that the large US division based in Tuzia, northern Bosniz, has not been as active as expected, given its central political importance. Constrained by instruc-

Michael Portillo, has pri-vately indicated that British troops would not remain un-sion beyond the mandate specified by the Dayton ac-cord or taking casualties year - US troops rarely move around in groups of less than four vehicles, for fear of being ambushed or taken hostage.

"Saying that the country ought to be politically unified before Nato pulls out is too hard a test," William Perry, the US defence secretary, told the New York Times.

The new minimal US goal is simply to fend off another war, not to unify Bosnia, nor to prevent the emergence of a Greater Serbia, nor even to help enforce international humanitarian law by arresting suspected war crimmals, he

On the evidence of the last four months, Mr Perry added, real Bosnian unification is "certainly not going to hap-pen by the time Nato is ready to pull out of there".

ment at that point for keeping Nato in longer? I can only think of one, and that is to prevent a war from starting up again — not to reunify the country," he said.

"What kind of a force deployment do we need to pro-vide an adequate deterrence for that not happening? Is air power alone sufficient? If ground forces have to supplement, do they have to be lo-cated in Bosnia or just a pull out of there". ready reserve force on "What would be the argu- standby?"

Apeter Mandolassi

Apout a 11 I about m

Res for the better

Three cleared as murder case collapses

Dayton peace agreement.
But the Defence Secretary.

mind and coarsening of the spirit and that is poised on the brink of a return to the dark continued from page 1 guments over the admissabi-lity of the evidence of Dwayne Brooks, aged 21, who was with Mr Lawrence on the night of the murder.

He had picked out Neil Acourt and Luke Knight in everything he says is relevant to modern Britain.

It is a demanding play but attention is held by the fine acting of Mike Nichols as

identity parades, but told police immediately after the nurder that he could only de-

murder that he could only de-scribe the man who had stabbed Mr Lawrence.

The judge also heard that Mr Brooks allegedly told De-tective Sergeant Christopher Crowley that he could only remember the men's physical descriptions and hair but had not seen their faces. Mr Justice Curtis ruled

that Mr Brook's identification was not based on true recog-nition, was contradictory, and contaminated. He said: Putting one injustice on top of another does not cure the first injustice done to the Lawrence family."

The collapse of the trial

meant the jury did not hear evidence presented at a com-mittal hearing last April. Video footage, shot by a secret police camera in Dobson's flat in Eltham, showed the three defendants were extreme racists accustomed to brandishing knives.

Fibres taken from Mr Lawrence's hand were also consistent with fibres taken from a jacket belonging to Dobson and a 10 inch knife, suspected of being the murder weapon, was found hidden under the bed of Dobson's girlfriend.

POLICE officers installed a secret camera and microphone in a plug socket in the home of Gary Dobson, who was acquitted yesterday of the murder of Stephen Lawrence.
Two films, shot by the camera at Mr Dobson's

There is a suggestion that they knew they were being In one scene in the films,

those who murdered Lawrence must be "laughing their nuts off".

up and left with nothing but f***** stumps." Mr Acourt also adds:

those cock suckers what it's all about." In other scenes, Mr

Acourt and Mr Knight can be heard yelling racist abuse at black entertainers while watching the Royal

three of those who stood der fire off abuse against black and Asian people. Mr Acourt describes in detail his hatred for them, saying that if he were to kill him-

around the house, wielding a large kitchen knife and stabbing furniture with an overarm motion.

At other times they discuss torturing black and Asian people and setting fire to them.

seized from the homes of the three men, including a Gurkha knife and a gun. The films were to have

GBELT

The new Mégane is giving a talk on safety. Call 0800 701 702, It could be fundamental.



Road tax scams peak

Westminster Corre

CUTS in staff cuts at the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency in Swanses are making it easier for car owners to evade the £140-ayear road tax, MPs have been told by the Department of

Non-payment has reached a prosecution dates, or the of-record £163 million a year and the agency is failing to meet the DVLA could act.

its own target of recovering £70 million a year from evaders. The figures were released following a National Audit Office report into the effi-ciency of the agency in pursu-Some 88,000 people who

should have been prosecuted were let off by the agency because it failed to serve notices on time, missed the court Knives and racism on film

home in Eltham, south-east London, in December 1994, showed him, his co-defendants, Neil Acourt and Luke Knight, and friends using racist language and wielding knives in an apparent practice stabbing of

bugged but not filmed. which were shown during a committal hearing last September, a friend of Mr Acourt is heard saying that

Mr Acourt replies:
"They're doing that mate,"
adding: "I reckon every
nigger should be chopped

television and at leading black athletes while watch-ing the Sports Personality of the Year programme.
Throughout the films, all

self he would first "kill every black c***, every copper, every paki".

Throughout the racist abuse, Mr Dobson and Mr Acourt can be seen walking

Several weapons were

"Enoch Powell, mate, you been shown to the jury at are the greatest. You are the private prosecution the don of dons. Get back brought by Lawrence's into Parliament and show parents.

Main points

city car use

☐ A new system of planning for trunk roads

☐ Increased powers for local authorities to manage traffic demand

□ Tougher control of

vate finance for trans-port, particularly the railways

Friends of the Earth, strongly criticised the Government for rejecting the use of targets to cut traffic levels. Executive director, Charles Secrett,

soid: "The use of targets is the acid test of a sustainable transport policy. If the Gov-ernment fails to incorporate

them into its strategy for transport, there is no way it

can determine the mix of poli-ries needed to make transport

The group has pressed for targets to cut traffic growth to be adopted through the Road Traffic Reduction Bill, which

has been supported by 113 MPs from all parties in an

RAC public affairs director, David Worskett, said: "Only a clear vision for the future of

transport backed by significant levels of investment can

address the country's trans

succession of reviews is a de-laying tactic which provides

no solutions and leaves Brit-ain falling still further behind

The AA said it was "a great disappointment" that the

Government had no plans to change the way that roads

and local transport are paid

for. "The paper confirms AA fears of Government inten-tions to increase the cost of

motoring, yet reduce spend-

ing on transport overall." said policy director John

Dawson.
The Council for the Protec-

tion of Rural England com-

"This seemingly endless

☐ New initiatives to

promote bus use ☐ National cycling targets to promote cycling ☐ Increased use of pri-

Girlfriend whose elderly parents were murdered hails 'victory for love and truth'





Judges free man jailed over killings at farmhouse

MAN jailed for life for the murder of his girl-friend's parents was yesterday freed by the Court of Appeal after judges decided his conviction was

His girifriend, who has sup-ported him throughout, de-scribed the decision as "a vic-tory for love and truth". She immediately repeated her offer of a reward of £25,000 for information leading to the conviction of her parents' killer.

Jonathon Jones, aged 37 Jonathon Jones, aged 37, from Orphigton in Kent, was freed at the end of the fourth day of an appeal against his conviction for the murder of Harry Tooze, aged 64; and Mr Tooze's wife Megan, aged 67, at their farmhouse in Mid Glamoreau in July 1983. Glamorgan in July 1998. He had been found guilty at

He had been found guilty at Newport crown court in April last year. The prosecution originally claimed that he had killed them for their money, suggesting that he would inherit up to 2150,000 if he were to marry Cheryl.

Lord Justice Rose, sitting with Mr Justice Dyson and Mr Justice Gage, adjourned briefly after hearing the Crown's submission and then amounced that Mr Justice was then the court of the crown's submission and then amounced that Mr Justice See the crown's submission and then amounced that Mr Justice See the crown's submission and then amounced that Mr Justice See the crown's submission and then amounced that Mr Justice See the crown is submission and then amounced that Mr Justice See the crown is submission and the crown in the crown

free to go.
"We are all of the clear

are unsafe for reasons which we shall give on a future occa-sion," said Lord Justice Rose. "Accordingly the convictions will be quashed and the defen-dant will be discharged." As the decision was given, Ms Tooze ran in celebration to the dock where Mr. Innes

to the dock where Mr Jones had been sitting flanked by security guards throughout the appeal. Mr Jones said outthe appeal. Mr Jones sain outside the court, before departing for a champagne celebration in a hotel: "I am delighted to be free. I had never given up hope." He said that his time in prison had been "horrendous"

been "horrendous".

Cheryl Tooze, aged 36, who has sat in court throughout the hearing with Mr Jones's father Graham, said: "I am absolutely delighted. It has been a long fight and my fight is not over set." is not over yet."
She soded: "My intention is

to carry on and find out who killed my parents. My reward of £25,000 still stands. It is a victory for love and truth." Ms Tooze has campaigned publically for Mr Jones ever since he was arrested. The case has become a cause celebre, and after the conviction was the subject of numer-

documentaries. She stayed with Mr Jones's family when he was on trial. The case split the small rural-community-whereighere had been gossip that sites howfriend must have done it, the Court of Appeal heard



She said last night that she | had never had any doubt of Mr Jones's innocence and would never have supported him if she had believed he was in any way involved. The case raised serious questions about the legal system, she about the legal system, she said. She intended to work on leged miscarriages of justice.

Detactive Chief Superintendent Phil Jones, head of South
Wales CID; said in a statement last night that the mur-ders had been exhaustively investigated and 5,000 people

quiry. "In these circumstances, while South Wales police will act swiftly on any new evidence which may be received in the near fixture, no fresh investigation into facts which have already been examined will be started."

The Court of Appeal had been told by John Rees QC. for Mr Jones, there was no evidence that he had fired the fatal shots. The shootings had the hallmarks of an experi-

not touched a firearm since

was in Orpington, Kent, on the day of the murders. No scientific evidence linked Mr Jones to the killings. He had a good relationship with the Toozes, who treated him as part of the family, and had no significant money problems.

Mr Rees said the trial judge, Mr Justice Rougier, had misdirected the jury, who convicted Mr Jones by a 10-2 majority. After the trial, in a private letter to Mr Jones's lawyers, Mr Justice Rougier had written: "I am bound to record that the verdict caused

ing South Wales police in which murder convictions have been quashed after highprofile campaigns and ap-

the murder of Lynette White in 1968 which led to the conviction of the three men known as the Cardiff Three, who were all cleared on ap-peal. They were also the in-vestigating force in the case of the Darvell brothers, convicted of the murder of a sex shop manageress and also cleared on appeal.

Transport green paper backfires

Kelth Harper and Rebecca Smithers

DEVASTATING official indictment of the state of Britain's roads was withheld by the Government last night as its much delayed green as its much delayed green paper on transport received a lukewarm response from environmental groups and the Opposition.

The survey of the national road network says that 13 per cent of motorways, 14 per cent of trunk roads, and 21 per cent of trunk roads, and 21 per cent of trunk roads, and 21 per cent of trunk roads.

cent of trunk roads, and 21
per cent of principal roads
will need major structural
repairs over the next four
years. The Government has
dramatically reduced its
roads programme and the
report says the overall picture is not improving.
The survey should have
been published yesterday by
the Highways Agency, but

the Highways Agency, but when government officials realised it would clash with the transport statement, they acted. Press releases of the survey were ready but were not issued because the sur-vey had not come back from the printers, a spokesman

The British Road Federa tion said: "Roads mainte-nance is becoming a huge problem. The green paper is full of admirable words but scarce on new resources. We cannot hope to survive eco-nomically if we have rotting and deteriorating roads."

The green paper puts less reliance on road building in the future. It says that simply building new roads to keep pace with increasing traffic demands is "not a realistic option, either environmentally or financially".
The paper was criticised for

its lack of substance and failure to provide a detailed con-clusion to the Government's so-called "great transport de-bate", while even the pro-roads lobby and motoring groups expressed their

retary, Clare Short, said: "It has taken more than 18 months to produce a paper which is notable only for its "Everything this Govern-

ment has done has undermined public transport. Yet

plained that 'any environmental gains from the green they are incapable of making paper will be undermined by the connection between the failure of their policies and the problems that Britain rising traffic levels."

The environmental group, Leader com

SEGA MEGADRIVE

PRIMAL RAGE

Critics wonder still after 'Alice' find

Gles Foden

about him took on the currency of truth long ago: Lewis Carroll was over-interested in young girls. Now, it seems, the author and Oxford mathematician might be on the point of rehabilitation. To some extent, anyway. Charles Lutwidge Dodg-

son, to give him his real name, is always assumed to have been fixated on Alice Liddell, the 10-year-old eponymous adventurer in his Wonderland. He was an amateur photographer, and befriended the Liddell family in 1856. He worked at Christ Church College,

Christ Church College, where Henry Liddell, Alice's father, was dean. The immendo gained currency from late June 1863, when Carroll fell out with the Liddell family. One of his nieces later ripped out the relevant pages of his diary covering the dates June 27-29, 1863, a year after his first telling of the Wonderland story to Alice. Those pages were thought

Those pages were thought to have contained details of a confession to Alice's parents of a passion for her, involving a formal proposal of marriage.

Now Karoline Leach, researching among Dodg.





The young Alice Liddell as photographed by Charles Dodgson (right), alias Lewis Carroll

have been pursuing not Alice, but her older sister. At 14. Ina was a mature woman. Or so it seemed to be thought in those days. Or perhaps, the note im-plies, his target was the sisters' governess. Miss Prickett.

about Carroll. Several of his photographs of nude children survive. The reviewer of a retent Carroll

biography described one of the models as adopting a Prickett.

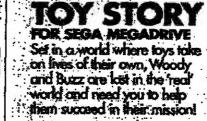
The note reads: "L.C. himself recorded having learns from Mrs Liddell taken hundreds of such picthat he is supposed to be using the children as a late in life.

son family archives in Guildford Muniment Room for a forthcoming screen-play, has discovered a fragment of paper. She believes it to be a summary of the diaries' missing pages, written by Violet Dodgson, one of the nieces.

It seems Carroll may have been pursuing not Alice, but her older sister.

But there are still doubts absolutely true. Yet surely absolutely true. Yet surely the point is that the evi-dence of the books wanting to preserve the state of

being both an adult and a child is stronger than any fragmentary biographical data could be. "Paedophilia is not really a useful word in this case. However many scraps of



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As Peter Mandelson has already made plain, New Labour ain't about anything if it ain't about lowering taxes for the better off, and it's high time Clare lovely, headstrong Clare — began to realise this. Bel Little ohn

Page 9

Will Michael

There's a great deal going on

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Farmers win right to fight EU

Michael White, Paul Brown and Stephen Bates

ARMERS cleared the first hurdle in their legal battle to chal-lenge the worldwide ban on beef yesterday, as MPs were told in the Commons that a cull of 40,000 cattle most at risk of BSE would only go ahead if the European Union agreed to plans to have the embargo on beef exports

The National Farmers' Union won leave to seek a ju-dicial review in the High Court of last month's EU decision to ban beef exports from Britain. Mr Justice Turner said the National Farmers' Union had an "arguable case" that the EU ban was illegal and ordered the case should be referred to the European Court "at the earliest expedi-

ent moment". In the Commons, Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minis-ter, admitted in reply to a question from Labour on Britain's announcement of a cuil-ing plan, that his proposals to target high risk cattle — "amounting to tens of thou-sands rather than hundreds of thousands" - would not be essential in terms of either

it clear to commissioner veal calves and the French Franz Fischler that the Gov- who have also killed imported ernment would only consider lifting of the EU ban on Brit-ish beef."

The NFU's application was for a judicial review of the refusal by the Ministry of Agriculture and Customs and

disease has come to light in Kent, it was disclosed

yesterday, and government scientists are investigating

three further suspected cases

pears more closely related to

bovine spongiform encepha-

lonathy than to the better

known sporadic form of CJD, and which convinced scien

tists that BSE had probably

One member of the spongi-form encephalopathy advi-

ory committee (SEAC) said:

"If more cases among young age groups are reported for

to face the fact that BSE some-

how represents a major

The victims in the apparent cluster around Ashford, Kent,

are Graham Brown, aged 36, a fireman of Ashford, Barry Baker, 27, a woodcutter of

High Halden, and an un-named Ashford man aged 56,

who may be a victim of the sporadic form of CJD.

threat to public health."

crossed into humans.

Alan Watkins

cases in Kent

ing out the instructions of the EU, it is a method of challenging the commission's power.
The European Court is the

only forum that can rule on the validity of the ban, and if it found for the farmers they would be able to claim millions in compensation from

the commission.
Stuart Isaacs QC, for the NFU, told the judge that the effect of the ban had been catastrophic. In 1995 the UK had exported

beef and beef products worth £520 million worldwide. As a result of the ban that trade had ceased completely, putting at risk the livelihoods of more than 25,000 agricultural workers, \$2,000 in meat processing, 7,500 in the cattle auction business and 8,500 in the haulage industry.

Mr Hogg is due to resume

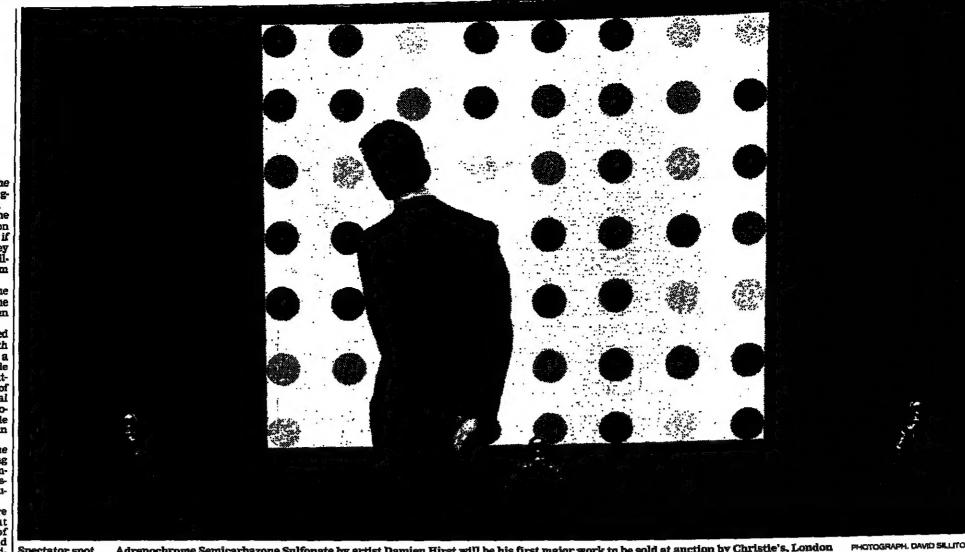
what he called "negotiating and persuading" in Luxem-bourg on Monday, amid frus-tration among MPs that valuable time has been lost. In Brussels, doubts were

growing last night about whether the slaughter of 40,000 additional cattle would be enough to satisfy EU agri-culture ministers.

Diplomats from some member states expressed reserva-tions about the extent of the human or animal health, cull, pointing out that they given the improvements in had already slaughtered more the food chain already cattle from Britain themtroduced. | selves: most notably the He told MPs: "I have made | Dutch who have killed 64,000

implementing such a scheme A commission spokesman in the context of plans for the said of the latest British proposals: "It is a step in the right direction, but how big a step or how far it goes in the right direction have yet to be decided."

Officials said the commis-Excise to issue health certificates for live animals for ex-



Spectator spot . . . Adrenochrome Semicarbazone Sulfonate by artist Damien Hirst will be his first major work to be sold at auction by Christie's, London

Journalists at suspended BBC Arabic service fear for their lives as they face deportation

ORE than 30 Arab jour-nalists who worked for the BBC Arabic television channel face deportation from Britain following the suspension of the corporation's news supply contract with the The service was suspended last Sunday after it broadcast an Arabic version of the Panorama programme Death of a Saudi Arabia. About 200 staff are expected to lose their jobs. portation were on work per-

Saudi satellite station Orbit. I mits tied to their jobs at the in their cases. One said he lamic government knows me The service was suspended service. Two said they would be killed if forced to well and my work for BBC." service. Two said they would be in extreme danger if they were sent home, because of some broadcasts critical of their governments and mili-tant Islamic groups in their countries. Both have asked the BBC management to in-tervene with the Home Office

return to the Sudan. He said he had been in exile for 16 years after spending nearly a year in jail. "If I go

A former editor at the ser-vice said: "Many of us think that the corporation knew what it was doing when it back I know I will end up in one of those ghost houses and broadcast the Arabic version one of those ghost houses and of Panorama. They knew it has obligations to its staff and be tortured. I went to school with half the cabinet. The Is-Orbit contract. We believe the them." said a spokesman.

interests of British business." BBC Worldwide said every effort would be made to find another communication channel for the Arabic ser-vice. "We recognise the BBC has obligations to its staff and

Tabloids fight as World Cup. 'spot the ball' Cluster of CJD becomes farce

Alex Bellos

THEY thought it was all

Geoff Hurst was said to be thrilled that the ball he have been reported in London and in Bridlington, North Yorkshire, Much more imporkicked into the net three N APPARENT cluster tant is the fall in the age pro-of Creutzfeldt-Jakob file of CJD sufferers. At least times during England's 1966 World Cup victory had been discovered in Dusselone of the Kent cases is thought to involve the new

based on the way the symp-toms present themselves. 20 and 30.

It will be many months before it is established whether any of the cases involved in the case in the cas tween January 1 and April 16 have a talismanic effect any of the cases involve the and will be difficult for scien-new strain of CJD which ap-tists to explain.

time to reach Hurst, The Sun announced yesterday that it too had discovered women and one man, thought the ball — a hundred miles to include one of the Ashford victims; 30 to 40, no new

51 to 60, one woman; 61 and French doctors are today questioning the link between BSE and CJD, writes Chris Mihili. They say they have seen a case of the new form of the illness which appears to have no links with beef. The

The following figures for cases this year were given to the Guardian: age under 20, no new cases; 20 to 30, three

cases: 41 to 50, three women, one suspected of having a variant of CJD, Gerschler-Strauss syndrome David Davis, last night that in fact it had found the ball and would present it to the

researchers point out if other cases emerge in European countries without BSE in cattle, it will mean cows are not the cause of the disease in Other apparent clusters humans.

over ... and it was too,

dorf, Germany.

Total Football magazine which kicked off a campaign to find the famous or-But before the ball had

away in a cellar near Augsburg. Then the Daily Mirror. turning the leathered plece of sporting heritage into kind of political football, informed Hurst's agent,

footballer today. Mr Davis said yesterday the whole affair had turned into a farce. "Until all the balls have been looked at properly, how can we tell?" The last claim was from man in Hunslet, West York shire, who called a radio

station saying he won it in

a local charity raffle.

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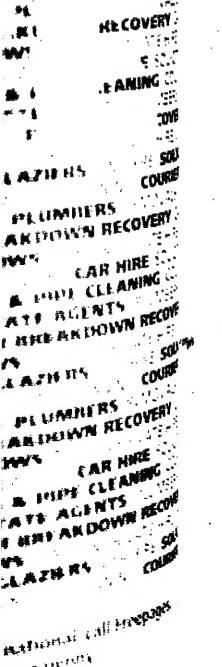
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CAR HIRE S.

they face deportate

PEUMBERS

Russia and China form united front

Andrew Higgins in Hong Kong

ITH champagne toasts and bearhug bonhomie, China and Russia declared a "strategic partner-ship" for the next century yesterday and, in a slap at the United States, vowed to resist the imposition of a new

Presidents Boris Yeltsin and Jiang Zemin agreed in Beljing to set up a telephone hotline, increase military cooperation and boost mutual trade, currently worth only a ninth of that between China

"Sino-Russian friendly relations have entered a new era," said Mr Jiang, "China does not and will not pose any threat to Russia."

Both sides denied any de-

'Sino-Russian friendly relations have entered a new era' Jiang Zemin

'I can't name a single question on which we would have different opinions'

Boris Yeltsin

sire to resurrect the doomed alliance forged by Mao Tse-tung and Stalin in 1950, but they declared a united front on major international issues, including deliance of Western accusations that they repress restive regions.

A joint communique filled with coded gibes at Washing-ton said: "The world is far from tranquil. Hegemonism, power politics and repeated imposition of pressure on other countries continue to occur. Bloc politics has taken

Until Mikhail Gorbachev visited China in 1989, Moscow was the principal target of Chinese charges of

Mr Yeltsin offered unequivocal support for China's right to rule Taiwan and Tibet. Mr sia's claim to Chechenia, and described the expansion of

as "impermissible". Concrete issues involving noney rather than rhetoric proved more difficult. Neither side would say whether agree-ment had been reached on a gas pipeline from Siheria to the Yellow Sea, billed as the the centrepiece of a new com-

The mood of carefully orchestrated amity contrasted sharply with the bitterness surrounding previous trips by Kremlin leaders.

"I can't name a single ques-tion on which we would have different opinions," said President Yeltsin, who is using the trip to enhance his image as an international statesman before Russia's presidential elections in June.

So effusive was he that he announced agreement on one issue on which it was clear none existed. He told a press conference that China had promised to join the internathe end of the year. China's foreign ministry quickly dis-sented, saying details had yet

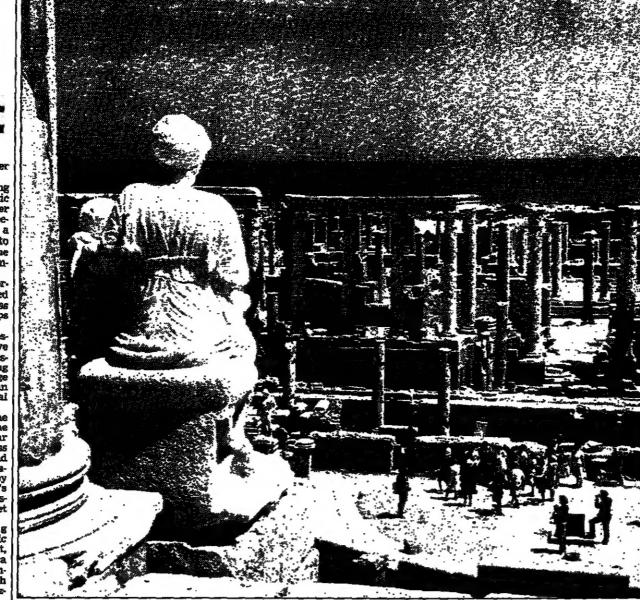
to be discussed.

Mr Yeltsin's politicking contributed the only public sour note so far to the visit, which continues today with a trip to Shanghai to sign a confidence-building pact with China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

Addressing the Chinese communist Party leadership, Mr Yeltsin warned that vic-tory by his Communist Party rival Gennady Zyuganov in June would bring catastro-phe. "If they win. civil war would start in Russia. This would an end to reforms. This cannot be allowed."
Officials signed 13 agree-

ments relating to the 2,700mile border, and co-operation on space, energy and nuclear ear to do much more than reaffirm previous accords. Details were scarce, particularly on military matters. Russia began talks yester-day with the Paris Club of

government creditors on rescheduling \$38 billion in debt, optimistic that it will soon reach final agreement with its bank creditors. Growing hopes that the country will soon announce a closing date for an agreement to restructure \$25.5 billion in debt with the London Club of commercial bank creditors pushed up Russian loan



Long-standing attraction . . . Westerners are drawn by well-preserved Roman sites like this one at Leptis Magus.

Tourism thrives in Gadafy's desert

Westerners are discovering Libya, as Kathy Evans found recently in Tripoli

American governments to be one of the main sponsors of international terrorism, is now playing host to thousands of well-heeled Western tourists.

"Libya's lovely," said one British tourist, who did not want to be identified. "I don't know why more people don't come here."

Getting there is an exer-cise in endurance. United Nations sanctions, in force since 1992 because Libya refuses to hand over two suspects wanted for the Lockerbie bombing, have cut the country off to air travellers. Visitors now have to

IBYA, the land of Colonel Gadafy and considered by the British and perican governments to one of the main sponsors mile trek from Cairo or 12hour boat ride from Malta.

Service also leaves a lot to be desired. Most hotels are state-owned and Liby-ans are unused to roles as reception clerks or waiters. Tunislans and Moroccans take many hotel jobs.

Another disadvantage is that alcohol is banned in Yet tourism has become the country's fastest growing business, providing the only source of foreign currency other than oil.

Dozens of tourism companies have sprung up to ca-ter for the new visitors. Libya boasts the best and not cheap. Tours are 290 a most complete Roman day, including hotels and ruins in the world at Leptis Magna, Sabratah and Shahat. In the south, there is the 4,000-year-old city of Qadamis, which claims to be the oldest and most eco-

logically efficient city in the world. But for most tourists now venturing into Libya, the spectacular desert is the reatest attraction.

"Obviously, Libya is not for lager louts or the sun, sea, and sex crowd," com-mented Salem Magadmi, of Sahara Tours. "The desert freaks are our market, and for them we can offer the best in desert camping and the world's cleanest air and

Tourists can spend a month touring desert dunes and lush cases in fourwheel drives with Tuareg bedonin guides. But it is

ransport.
"I've had a wonderful holiday and I felt very safe here," said Swiss school-teacher, Sylvie Perriuji-guet, aged 40, who spent a week camping in the

desert. Germans provide Libya's top tourist market, fol-lowed by the Italians, Spanish and Swiss.

"We are planning to market ourselves in London this year," said the guide from Sahara Tours. "We would like to do the same in the United States, but there are still a few problems."

The biggest of those prob-lems is that Americans are

mned by law from visiting Libya. An American discovered to be working in Libya's oil fields was recently fined \$250,000 (£165,000).

PLO vote paves way for talks on final status

Derek Brown in Jerusalem

HE Palestine Liberation Organisation's revoca-tion of the core of its founding covenant has opened the way for crucial talks with Israel to open at the end of next week on the future of Palestine.

Negotiations on a so-called final status agreement, due to be implemented in 1999, will cover all the most contentious issues at the heart of the Middle East's most fractious dispute: refugees, Jewish settlements, final borders and the status of Jerusalem.

But, say critics of Wednesday's changes in the PLO coverant, the Palestinians will go naked into the conference chamber, having in effect given up their claim, based on their natural majority, to control the destiny of the land be-tween the River Jordan and the Mediterranean.

The changes in the cove The changes in the cove-nant were approved, at the in-sistence of President Yasser Arafat, by the PLO's "parlia-ment", the Palestine National Council (PNC). Mr Arafat insists that the outcome of the next negotiations will be a Palestinian sovereign state, with Jerusalem as its capital. But he has also made it clear that the state he will accept will be a small, pale shadow of the Palestine envisaged by

the PLO founding fathers.

Meeting for the first time since the 1967 Six Day War on Palestinian soil, the PNC session in Gaza City approved the changes by 504 votes to 54, with 14 abstentions.

The size of the majority as-tonished even Palestinian ob-servers, who had predicted that Mr Arafat would struggle to achieve the two-thirds maa show of hands, at Mr Arafat's insistence.

In the end, most of the PNC bowed to presidential pres-sure. Radical elements, in-cluding the Popular and Democratic fronts, boycotted the session. Individual dissi-dents, like the respected Gaza independent, Haider Abdel-Shafi, and human rights activist Hanan Ashrawi, voted

against the changes. The outcome of the vote is widely seen as a triumph for Mr Arabt. Though it may not increase his popularity among Palestinians, it has certainly boosted his standing among Israelis, many of whom had despaired of seeing any fundamental change in the PLO constitution.

The Israeli government was overjoyed by the news from Gaza. The prime minister, Shimon Peres, facing elec-tions on May 29, called the decision "a very substantial change; an historic step".

The governing Labour Party responded yesterday by dropping its long-held opposi-tion to a Palestinian state.

There is a widespread ex-pectation in Israel that Mr Arafat will be rewarded by speedy progress towards Isra-el's long-delayed withdrawal from most of the West Bank city of Hebron.

High military sources, quoted in the well-informed Hebrew press, said the with-drawal could take place as

early as this weekend, and be completed in 12 hours. Israel promised to hand over to the self-rule authority all Palestinian cities in the occupied West Bank. Only Hebron remains to be trans-ferred, and even when it is. Israeli troops will remain in the city centre to protect the 400 or so fanatical Jewish setjority necessary for constitu-tional change. Voting was by amid more than 100,000 Arabs.

Imran Khan enters politics

entered Pakistani politics yesterday, ending months of

The former cricket star announced the formation of the Movement for Justice at a

press conference in Labore. "The main objective of this novement is to bring about a change in the country by de-manding justice, honesty, de-cency and self-respect," he said. "I have entered politics

MRAN KHAN officially | is moving toward disaster, no one can sit on the sidelines." Analysts say Mr Khan could pose a real challenge to Benazir Bhutto's ruling Pakistan People's Party and to the

opposition Muslim League. He did not announce his new movement's platform, but he has been linked to some funda-mentalist Muslim groups. Fundamentalists hope that Khan. with his Oxford education, will make their movement more acbecause ... when the country | ceptable - AP.

min brief

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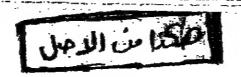
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slash spending

Chechen leader pledges 'holy war'



Yandarbiyev: Not known

HE new leader of the Chechen separatist cause, Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev, called night for a jihad against Russia, saying that only through war could his people achieve independence from

Speaking in the village of Rochni-Chu, less than a mile from where his predecessor Dzhokhar Dudayev met his death this week, he vowed to continue the war to the bitter

Close by lay the huge crater left by the rocket which killed Dudayev and wrecked his car as he tried by satellite phone

In a long monologue, the quietly spoken Mr Yandar-biyev declared: "They say the Chechen people are buried. We are not buried... I will take the lead in a war, in a jihad of the Chechen people. jihad of the Chechen people, in the name of Allah and in the name of the freedom of the Chechen people."

This sounded the death

knell for the peace initiative Mr Yeltsin launched at the beginning of the month when he promised a limited with-drawal of troop from Chechen villages which signed the

Mr Yandarbiyev said he had been appointed by "the state committee of defence and cabinet of ministers", a the rumoured misgivings of such increasingly independent war lords as Shamil

Basayev and Ruslan Gelayev. He went out of his way to brand President Yeltsin s criminal He called the Rus sian state "a mafioso-like creation" and said that responsi bility for the war and destruction visited on the Chechen nation lay with Mr

He was guilty at the start of He appeared to threaten Mr Yeltsin's life, thus closing the

door firmly on any attempts

to negotiate with the Russian

"We consider him guilty

the rebels' ideology chief, has never been known for his ability to compromise.

Reactions in Grozny

rate hoax. Many former fight ers found fault with Mr Yan darbiyev, saying he had not stayed in Grozny to organise its defence, that he was not a

said: "For me he is not an authoritative man. Basayev or Gelayev are." Others said they did not believe he would be anything other than a

The centre of Grozny is now a desolate clearance site. The presidential palace, the symbol of Chechen resistance, is a huge pile of rubble, among which the old lamp posts still stand erect.

Russian armoured person in broad daylight. One fired a unction to warn other cars to get out of the way. The new masters of Grozny shoot first

and ask questions later.
An outraged Chechen mar ket trader said: "They even shoot off their guns in time to head phones, just to inspire permanent state of shock." A woman called Rosa said

Who is considered a bandit? A cat? A dog? A seven-year-old boy this high? There are two boys who went mush room picking yesterday. The Russians shot at them, too, and now they are in an inten sive care unit. Is that

lan Traynor in Bonn ERMANY'S chancellor

Helmut Kohl, warning The country that it is terday pushed ahead with and welfare cuts which tation with the powerful trade

Following the collapse of talks he held earlier in the week with the mions and employers' leaders, Mr Kohl sought to bypass mounting opposition by appealing di-rectly to the public to support austerity measures intended to make Germany fit for a single European currency rein in growing deficit spend

In an open letter to the pub-lic leaked to the Bild tabloid newspaper, Mr Kohl em-ployed a Thatcherite tone in announcing the austerity measures, and warned of tough times ahead in a country that enjoys the high-est wages and social security provision in Europe.
"Some say we can finance

prosperity on credit," Mr Kohl's letter stated. "But the state is no different from private life: we can't live above

Referring to Germany's post-war record level of 4 million unemployed, Mr Kohl said labour had priced itself

"If we don't act now, more iobs will be lost and we will be no longer able to finance our welfare state." In a speech to parliament

today, the chancellor is to disclose what is being touted as a blueprint for economic recovery, job creation and growth. His priority is to get public finances in order since

Congress.
"This has been an abysmal

process, but the epilogue of

this sad story is that when the president and the Republi-

cans sit down on a bi-partisan basis, they can reach agree-ment on budget issues," Mike

McCurry, the White House

spokesman, said yesterday.

After months of wrangling,

which twice saw the federal

government shut down and hundreds of thousands of

workers sent home, the agree

ment meant that the US for-

mally joined Luxembourg and

world's soundest economies

It will now run a deficit of

\$144 billion (£97 billion) this

year, less than half of that

The 1996 budget ends the

series of temporary funding

the business of American gov

ernment lurching unreliably

along since last October.
The budget compromise

was hailed by the White

House and most political ana-

ton, who managed to preserve a range of domestic reforms

which the Republicans had

tried to stop by denying them

when Mr Clinton took office.

rland as one of the

mean that without cuts the government will fall to pass the single European currency tests on budget deficit and public debt in 1997.

the economy moving by curb ing the high non-wage costs of industry, and tax reform.

The measures will include reductions of at least 20 per

cent in sick pay, trimming of pensions, raising of the retire-ment age for women, a freeze on child benefits, and moves to make it easier for small firms to sack workers. The government is also

seeking to impose a pay freeze in the public sector. But negotiations on next year's pay round for 3.2 million public in Stuttgart with unions de-The interior minister. Manfred Kanther, declared

that the kitty was empty and that any rises would have to "Saving is the commandment of the hour," he said. Union leaders vowed to resist the moves away from

the traditional German con-sensus model of corporate capitalism towards American or British "pure capitalism". The opposition Social Dem ocrats accused the government of moving to dismantle the welfare state, rather than tackling unemployment.

But Wolfgang Schäuble, a close ally of Mr Kohl and the Christian Democrats' narliamentary leader, dismissed such talk as scaremongering. 'We've surrounded our-

selves with a web of state-decreed welfare that is a straitiacket on motivation. self-responsibility and initia-tive," Mr Schäuble said. "The



Gallic emotion . . . An animated president, Jacques Chirac, reacts to being surrounded by well wishers in Amiens, northern France, during a visit yesterday PHOTOGRAPH, MOREL SPINGLES

could work with a hostile

Red centre of Italy rejoices in Prodi's bella vittoria

John Hooper in Bologna discovers the blend of socialism and Catholicism that lies behind the new governing alliance

Srain in the colonnade on Via dell'Indipendenza, the Puccini band of Bologna is belting out the old partisan anthem, Bella,

It is Liberation Day, Ita ly's pre-eminent leftwing festival, in the week of the first leftwing victory in a half-century of restored de-mocracy. Bella, Ciao is greeted by a sustained

CHELTERED from the war memorial. Amondetta Negretti has come with her friend whose father was a with what she calls a "bella

> Run by communists and their heirs ever since the war, Bologna is Italy's "reddest" city. The main road to the centre from the ring road is called Via

It is also the town with

"Just down there, at St Stephen's," said a pensioner gesturing with his umbrella. "Prodi and the parish priest, they're great communion there every

Coming to Bologna makes a lot of things about Prof Prodi and the alliance ne leads fall into place. From a distance, be se like the captain of a motley mixed with devout, though progressive, former Chris-Democrats like

burst of applause.

Round the corner in the Piaza Maggiore under a sky the colour of pumics stone, they are preparing to lay wreaths at the city's born, but where until times.

It is also the town with the times which Professor Romano Prodi, the centre-left's candidate for the premiership, is most closely associated. It was not where he was gua April 25 was an opportunity to commemorate the

recently he lived, taught — Resistance, across the buses glide over the cobbles and prayed. Petronius, it was a chance for "Catholic" Bologna to hold a convention of the Prayer Groups of Padre Pio, the 20th-century Capuchin mystic.

> these two apparently con-tradictory forces, you can see them fusing before you eyes. Yesterday's Resisance commemorations began with a mass — at St

Such is the strength of

It becomes entirely comprehensible that an adoptive son of Bologna should feel able to represent both sets of ideals in govern-ment. What helps them to co-exist in Bologna is It is often held up as a show-case for leftwing ad-

electronic display boards telling passengers when the next service is due. None of this, though, would be possible without the prosperity generated by the city's

'It was time for a change...We Italians have been.

well, a bit too static

businesses. And it is Italy's God-fearing entrepreneurs of whom Prof Prodi has made himself a champion. Mara Albertassi, the partisan's daughter huddled under her umbrella in the ministration. Gleaming

Kurdish progress

Democratic Party and Patri-otic Union of Kurdistan on a

Domestic violence

A Kuwait appeal court senenced a woman to 10 years in

jail for murdering a maid who had refused to clean the

house, the Arab Times reported yesterday. -- AP.

Washington has paid over

compensation for the 1988

shooting down of an Iranian airliner by a US warship which killed 290 people, an

Iranian official said yester-

Airliner pay-off

good for the economy". She hoped that a centre-left easier for her daughter. who is due to leave school this year, to get a job. She was also counting on it to put an end to cuts in the pension system begun two years ago by the conserva-

vio Berlusconi. On the other side of the square, Italo Brizzi, the head of the quality control unit at a local firm, also thought that Prof Prodi could help boost the econo-my. "But in any case, it was time for a change, All we've had for 50 years have been adjustments this way and that. I think we Italians have been, well, a bit too

pledge to put 100,000 extra police on the streets HE Republicans yester He also won Republican day finally agreed a budget for the current financial year, allowing the Clinton, both to claim a politi-cal victory and insist that he

Clinton claims

budget victory

agreement to repeal a measure they had passed earlier to require members of the HIV to be discharged with the loss of pension rights and medical benefits. In return, the Republicans

funds. These included, for example, Mr Clinton's election

won little more than the right to boast that they had cut planned spending by \$43 billion. Newt Gingrich, the Republican speaker of the House of Representatives claimed yesterday that this was "a great achievement we have changed the spend-ing culture in Washington". The other concession to the Republicans will be paid for mainly by the developing

aid will be withheld from any population control proauthorises abortion. "Most of the political gains go to the president," said William Schneider, a political

analyst at the American Enterprise Institute. "The Republicans were desperate not to have another government shutdown."

This year's budget agreement lasts until October 1, when the new 1997 budget is with just five weeks remain-ing then before the November 5 election, the Republicans are determined to recapture demand for tax cuts.

News in brief

'No evidence found' to link Spain's PM to death squads

SPAIN'S Supreme Court in-vestigator has found no evidence linking the outgoing rime minister. Felipe Gonza lez, to charges related to a "dirty war" against Basque separatists in the 1980s, court sources said yesterday.
The court would not request parliamentary per-mission for Mr Gonzalez to

ability" issue a writ rejecting

vestigating accusations that Mr Gonzalez's Socialist government ran death squads targeting rebels showed there targeting rebe was no proof he was involved, they added.

A disgruntled former Socialist Party leader in the Basque region had accused Mr Gonzalez and other high officials of conspiring to oper ate the squads.
The scandal forced Mr Gon testify and would "in all probsalez to call an early election, the complaints against him. A

in betraval

Paraguay's President Juan Carlos Wasmosy, bowing to public and political pressure, announced yesterday he will his rebellious army chief defence minister. "The people's will takes

precedence over any commitment I may have under-taken," President Wasmosy said, referring to the popular outrage at his earlier offer. "That is why I have resolved to sacrifice my commitment, with all the consequences this

Rebel's lesson | may have, and ... not desig- pistol-whipping a teenager. A | nate General [Lino] Oviedo | tap of Len Davis's telephone **Baby beaters**

A Californian 6-year-old who neighbours said liked to hit children with sticks was in custody yesterday along with two other boys, suspected of kicking, beating and possibly taking a stick to a month-old baby. The baby was in a critical condition — AP.

Bad cop

A former New Orleans police officer has been found guilty of arranging the death of a woman who accused him of

captured the officer celebrat-ing the woman's death, shoutreminder for ing and singing, "Yeah! Yeah! Yeah, yeah, yeah. Rock, rock-a-bye!" — AP.

CHERNOBYL nuclear power station suffered a Further progress has been reported at a fourth round of minor release of radioactivity on Wednesday night, just short of the 10th talks to try to forge a permanent peace between rival Kurdish groups sharing control of northern Iraq, Chris Nuttall in Ankara writes. The anniversary of the world's worst nuclear accident. when the No 4 reactor ex-ploded in the early hours of US mediator, Robert Deutsch, met leaders of the Kurdistan April 26 1986. A station spokesman said

> chine room of reactor No 3.
> "As the work was badly organised, radioactive dust contaminated four places. The level of radioactivity rose seven times. There was no radiation of staff beyond norms. But this was a viola-

from filters removed either from the pumps used to extract air from the sarcophagus encasing reactor No 4 or, according to another account, from a dis-used water filtration sys-tem between reactors 3 and 4. — Agencles.

Chernobyl

radioactive dust contami-nated four places in the ma-

tion of safety rules."

The dust was said to come been governed since 1994, the final constitution has to be agreed by May 9, or a referen-dum could be forced.

South African constitution threatened by deadlock

David Berestord in Johannesburg

RESIDENT Nelson Mandela and his predecessor, F. W. de Klerk, are expected to hold urgent talks this weekend in an attempt to break a deadlock which threatens the adoption of South Africa's final constitution.

The impasse in negotia-

tions on the constitution, which has to be agreed by May 9, appeared to contribute to panic on the financial markets yesterday which saw a record fall in the rand's value. No one was sure why the currency weakened so rapdly to close the day at 4.430 to the dollar — a drop of 4 per cent from Wednesday's close. The constitutional assem-bly — effectively a joint sitting of the two houses of par-liament — began voting on the new constitution late on Wednesday night. In terms of sday night. In terms of the interim constitution under which South Africa has

Parties yesterday tabled more than 300 amendments to the legislation, but the most serious deadlocks are beween Mr Mandela's ANC and its coalition partners, Mr de Klerk's National Party

The nationalists are fight-

ing for the insertion of a right of lockout — as a counter to labour's right to strike — and provision for single-language ducation. The ANC oppos the education clause on the racially-exclusive schools.

The major trade union federation, the Congress of South African Trade Unions has called for a one-day general strike on Tuesday as a dem-onstration of popular opposi-

tion to a lockout clause. The ANC has been criticised for supporting the call.

The other major proposed change is the replacement of the senate by a 90-strong national council of provinces,

its members nominated by regional legislatures. The ANC and the National

Party, which together can deliver the two-thirds majority needed to pass a new constitution, have been criticised for negotiating in private.



What is striking about the SAS phenomenon is that it is equally available to left and right. LWT's film of The One That Got Away was made by Paul Greengrass, who was associated with both the TV and book versions of Spycatcher. John Dugdale

Review cover story

Think about the children

One thing worse than divorce is a dire marriage

future.

so much humbug as in Wednesday night's divorce debate. Spurious platitudes were piously piled on specious truisms in a fraudulent attempt to demonstrate family values. Research, hard evidence and expert advice were all ignored by the back-to-basics band who naively believe human behaviour can be changed by parliament. Contrary to the insistence of the Prime Minister yesterday, this was not a debate in which conscience was exercised on important moral principles. Important issues were at stake — improving the lives of children whose parents separate — but not moral principles. Whether separating couples should be required to wait 12, 18 or 24 months before divorcing is not a moral principle but a political judgment. Ending fault in divorce is a moral judgment but this was not introduced by the current bill but by the last divorce act in 1969. The most offensive part of the whole exercise has been the way in which the most moral man within the Government, the Lord Chancellor, has shamelessly been portrayed by immoral opportunists in the Tory party and populist press as a trimmer and unprincipled legislator.

Our divorce laws cry out for reform. Divorce is always painful but the present procedure only exacerbates ill-will, resentment and bitterness. The people hardest hit by the present acrimonious process are children. Research suggests 40 per cent are cut-off from one parent within two years of a decree - the equivalent of almost one million children in a decade. Yet successive governments have backed away from comprehensive reform, as though the sixfold increase in divorce since 1970 had never happened. A decade ago the Government's think tank on law reform, the Law Commission, began studying ways of reforming the process. In 1988 it

RARELY can the Commons have heard | produced a sane and sensible discussion package, which was republished in 1990 in a refined form. Government white papers and consultative docu-ments followed. This was no gimcrack, knee-jerk bill which Michael Howard is so fond of producing. Perhaps that is why he joined the opponents on Wednesday. The debate over the length of the waiting period typifies the superficial arguments of opponents. Children do not distinguish between separation and divorce. Life for Fergie's children after this month's decree nisi is no different from last month. What children want is a sense of security about future arrangements. As the Government's white paper noted last year: a longer period than 12 months offers no incentive to deal with the past - and an increased period of insecurity about the

> Rarely has a bill been so carefully prepared. Yet still the fundamentalists want to block its progress and even now, after their minor success in extending the waiting time, they are trying to persuade ministers to withdraw the entire package. Not even this government will be so stupid. The reform is on its way - some 1.5 million divorces since the Commissioners first began their exercise. A new more conciliatory process, which will be mediator-directed rather than lawyer-led, will be put in place. The process will lead to less acrimony, better links between children and parents, and perhaps, because couples will be required to contemplate all the consequences of divorce in the waiting period, more reconciliations. Certainly bitterness, hostility and recriminations should be reduced. This in turn should reduce damage to children. The research is unequivocal: far more damage is wreaked by parental conflict than by separation. Only the ideologically blind could have opposed



was announced yesterday in Beijing by strategies in this four-sided contest. It Presidents Boris Yeltsin and Jiang Ze is not really such a coincidence, then, min. It inaugurates a "new age" for the that Mr Yeltsin and Mr Jiang should 21st century. Mr Yeltsin piled on the have proclaimed their own new partnype by insisting that " single question on which we (Russia and China) would have different opinions". If that were really the case, Sino-Russian relations would have achieved a state of harmony well beyond the

reach of Comrades Stalin and Mao. It seems to be the season for proclaiming new partnerships in Asia. President Clinton was in Tokyo last week joining with Prime Minister Hashimoto to reaffirm an alliance which would also be "vital for the 21st century". Without mentioning names, they talked about the need to deal with "sources of instability" in the region. This drew a careful response from Beijing, where the foreign ministry spokesman said he "did not think" that the US-Japan security agreement was aimed at China. But if Japan continued to build up its armed forces that would require, he added "vigilance among

other Asian nations". The Yeltsin visit to China is one way of demonstrating vigilance on a topic which, ever since the first Sino-Japanese War a century ago, has concerned Russia as much as China. The East Asian map demonstrates the persistence of the great power game in its

A BRAND new strategic partnership | China to calculate and calibrate their just days after Mr Clinton and Mr Hashimoto affirmed theirs.

The game is traditionally accompanied by periodic denials that it exists. All that the participants are interested in, they say, is stability and the free exchange of goods. China is particularly eloquent in denying that it has played the Russian (or in the past the American) card. But this time both Moscow and Beijing want their hands to be a little more visible. Mr Yeltsin with an election ahead must show that the US can't take him for granted. Mr Jiang runs a party whose only surviving ideology is "patriotism". He and his army have been bruised by US opposition to their clumsy performance in the Taiwan Straits.

The fact remains that, as the Chinese stressed yesterday, this is not an alliance. There are still some short but highly contentious stretches of border to be demarcated. Mr Yeltsin gave a nod to local Russian objections as he passed through the Maritime province. He mentioned Chinese illegal guest workers and said that the Far East would always be Russian. China has never repudiated Chairman Mao's view that large chunks of it were "lost" to the most classic form. The line-up may vary | Russians. In the next century this could over time: what does not change is the still be an area where there are neither need for the US, Russia, Japan and eternal allies nor perpetual foes.

Transport policy going nowhere

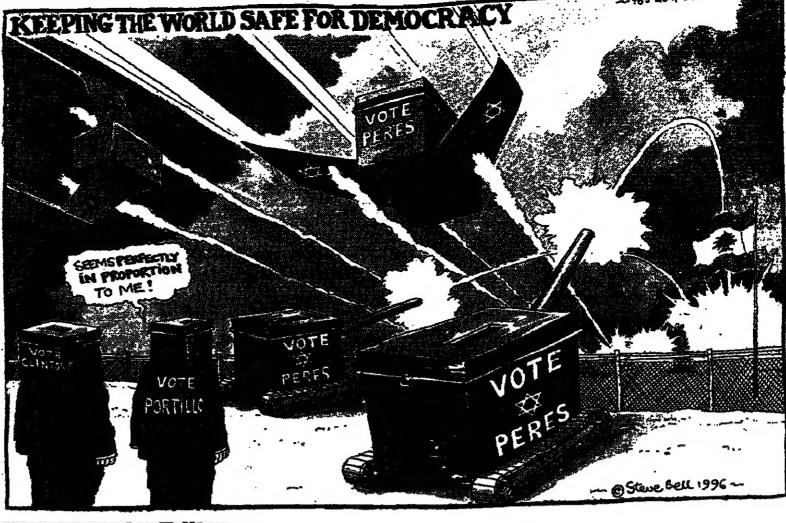
It must be special to have upset road lobbies and the greens

YESTERDAY'S transport green paper will wither on the shelf (probably turning really green in the process) while politicians fret about the election. Which is just as well because the proposals are so vague - and with no new resources to back them up - that it would be tough to discern whether they had been implemented or not. The Government stresses five themes. One is a switched emphasis from roads to "public transport" whatever that means now that the railways and most buses are privatised. Recent decisions to expand motorwaylinks around Heathrow while postponing the cost-effective CrossRail link across London are not reassuring. The Government regards the savings arising from the collapse of road building (following public pressure) to be an opportunity to pocket the savings rather than use them elsewhere.

A second theme - to reduce dependence on the car in towns - sounds

great: except that the Government is hiving off the responsibility to local authorities (not hitherto among it's heroes) while denying them the means. Another theme - better planning of transport infrastructure - will be achieved through "integrating more closely the regional land use planning system with the planning of trunk roads" (well, that will show them). Other themes are equally vague like making better use of infrastructure. Small wonder the both the road and environmental lobbies have been upset

at the same time. Even noble aims - like doubling cycle use by 2002 — need qualification. A Commons answer the day before the green paper shows that the miles cycled since 1984 have dropped from 4 billion to 2.7 billion and as a percentage of all passenger miles (excluding walking) cycling has halved. Who, pray, has been in power all this time?



Letters to the Editor

Emergency in the wards A sour taste of beef, with the Government getting roasted

general practice (Doctors snub hospital jobs, April 23). It is tragic this government has made working conditions and salaries so unattractive that over 30 per cent reject a career in the NHS. Many NHS trusts are seduc-

ing doctors and nurses from Third World countries, who spend precious resources on training their doctors only to find they are stolen by a wealthier country. This hap-pened in the 1960s when large numbers of doctors came here from India, and now we are doing it again. It is disgraceful when all this Government needs to do is make the NHS more attractive to UK-trained doctors.

We spend just 6 per cent of our GDP on health, half the proportion spent by almost every other developed nation. No doubt there lies the source

of the problem. Alan B Shrank. Vice-President, Hospital Consultants & Specialists Association, 20 Crescent Place. Town Walls, Shrewsbury SY1 1TQ.

ILING vacant consultant posts is proving to be a major problem. The immediate reason is a very signifi-

In the past, if hospitals wanted an additional consultant then they had to go through an elaborate plan-ning process with reference to Manpower Committees. The purpose of these was ef-

moving to a far more sensible level than has been the case in the past. However, the im-mediate training grade of the senior registrar has been fixed until relatively recently and so the number of trainees for consultant posts has not been able to rise.

The root of the problem lies as long ago as 1968, the year of publication of the Todd publication of the Toda Report which predicted that by 1994 the nation would need 4,500 medical graduates per year. A succession of govern-ments failed to implement fully the Todd Report and ex-panded medical school output from 2,500 at the time of the report to 3,500. A deficit of 1,000 doctors per year was thus introduced.

However, the replacement of general practitioners retir-ing during the next years is going to create the most pressing medical crisis of all and many of the population may find themselves without a family doctor. (Dr) David Grimes.

Consultant Physician. Lowerfield, Langho, Blackburn BB6 8HE.

THE arbitrary cuts of five per cent of management posts (Nurses lose jobs in cull cant expansion of the consul- | of bureaucrats, April 25) are tant grade in the past five great burden on trusts which are already efficient and have cut management posts. Con-tract negotiations, which include quality standards for nationt care, require much attention, and mechanisms for Gay Lee. reporting the achievement of 26 Kirkstall Road. targets met are at times elabo- London SW2 4HF.

E produce 4,000 new doctors in the UK each year, enough to staff our NHS hospitals and number of consultants is now been lost. The number of consultants is now clean trusts to find where additional cuts could be n without losing their

efficiency. Jacqueline Filkins. Chair, Nurse Executive Forum Royal College of Nursing, 20 Cavendish Square, London W1M 0AB.

busy inner-London hospi-tal. We are very understaffed and consequently work under a great deal of pressure. Our problem is recruiting mid-wives. The reasons for this are reduction in training places; redundancies among experienced (expensive) staff who used to support junior colleagues; and an inflexibility about employing qualified midwives who need to work fixed hours because of family

AM a midwife working in a

One of the most frustrating aspects is that each woman who gives birth in our unit is worth \$2,000 to our hospital trust. If the sometimes unsafe and often unsatisfactory staff-ing levels are publicised then women will understandably want to go elsewhere to have their babies. Our unit's income would drop and our services worsen. Neighbouring maternity units, stready teetering on the brink of similar Benacre, Beccles, Suffolk NR34 7LH. would take them for the cash they represent. Money talks. It pays no one to speak out. Mothers and babies suffer and midwives are at their

Spare the child

WE, mostly teachers and parents, are greatly dismayed by the case of Richard Wilding (Strike over violent pupil, April 25). Although we completely agree that bad be-haviour in classrooms is unacceptable, we were not aware that the job of a trade union was to gang up on one

child and his parents.

We are opposed to the proposed strike against a child when it is a teacher's job to control children. Richard Wilding is not "the child from hell", nor does he represent the "modern malaise". He is

only a 13-year-old boy. The teachers at Glaisdale School are not the only people who are projecting their prob-lems on to children; being a teacher in 1996 is a difficult and stressful job, but it is not Richard Wilding's fault if the resources required to teach effectively are not available.

The proposed strike in Not-tingham serves only to rein-force the vicious and counterproductive spiral of "blame the teachers — blame the parents" that has dogged the education debate for years. The Government blames teachers for declining stan-dards, then teachers blame parents. Now it seems badly behaved little boys are behind the problem.

Neither teachers nor parents are to blame for the problem that Richard Wilding has come to represent. Nor should one child bear responsibility for the failure to deliver high-quality education to all. What we all need is better-funded education. Bernadette Whelan.

Kate Moorcock Richard Woolfenden c/o 223 Highbury New Park, London N5 2TX.

Please include a full posta address, even on e-mailed letters, and a telephone numb We may edit letters: shorter ones are more likely to appear. Ne regret we cannot acknowledge those not used.



Morris dancers take the floor

ODERN Morris dancing at its best is an exciting. entertaining, creative and contemporary art form. Why then, whenever the Guardian refers to Morris, does it unearth the self-delusions of reactionary dinosaurs?

I spoke at a Morris conference on April 20, on the theme of the poor public image of Morris. Of the 80 dancers and academics present not one would dance "to ensure spring rain for crops". Tony Forster. All Saints Road,

Peterborough PE1 2QT.

THERE is concern that
Morris dancing is becoming a 40-something activity,
with few younger people coming in (Bell tolls for Morris
dancers as plea for new blood falls on stony ground. April 22). The bulge of people who took up dancing 20 years ago in the revival are now getting progressively older. Some teams have died out for lack of numbers.

Janet Dowling.

Morris Federation, 47 Chestnut Avenue, Surrey KT19 0SY.

Law is found guilty of sexism

the legal profession (Maverick solicitors' leader lays down law to women on sex discrimination, April 22) offers further confirmation of just how out of touch he is. I welcome the increase in

the number of women being recruited to practise as solicitors, but the idea that equality has been achieved and that discrimination in the legal service is a thing of the past is simply not borne out by the figures. I would be happy to send Mr Mears a copy of a written answer I have just rather than appearing to aid received from the Lord Chancellor's Department. It confirms that discrimination against women in the legal House of Commons, profession is alive and well. Of London SWIA OAA.

HE President of the Law the 23 Lord Justices of Appeal Society's denial that appointed in the last five women face discrimination in years, none were women. Of years, none were women. Of the 64 High Court judges and 247 Circuit Judges appointed since 1991, only six and 20 respectively were women. It is precisely because there

are so few women in positions of responsibility in our courts that women continue to receive unacceptable treatment at the hands of the legal service. Victims of rape are often made to feel it is they who are standing trial.

Mr Mears should be leading the call to root out discrimina tion in the legal profession

and abet it. Tessa Jowell MP. Shadow Minister for Women. House of Commons.

WE HEAR, on very good authority, that a policy is about to be announced for a reduced national beef herd" (UK offers Europe limited cattle slaughter, April 25). Have we missed the point? The inci-dence of BSE is largely a problem in the dairy herd (over 90 per cent of herds have had a case). Our wellinformed ministers cleverly imparted information on the possible link between BSE and CJD in such an unpre-pared fashion as to cause a complete collapse of beef con-sumption and a world-wide ban on UK beef and beef-

related products.
The Government's "defiance" of EU demands to take action in herds with a high incidence of BSE, and merely cull at the end of the working life, means that the suply of milk, butter and cheese will continue (and hence the trade balance will not be further disrupted) and further hefty compensation bills will not need to be faced. The failure to take adequate messures which will satisfy EU and world opinion is driven. world opinion is driven purely by economic and polit-ical reasons and is no longer about beef at all. David R B Cargill. (Dr) Leisa J Cargill. Walnut Tree Farm,

TRST the Government creates a new definition of the word "safe". Then it behaves as if we still live in a world in which we can send the gunboats out to subdue the naTHE PARTY TO THE P

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113

Foreign consumers will simply never buy British beel again, no matter what their governments tell them they must do. British consumers who wish to eat safely will grow out of the habit and their children will never grow into it.

AF Litten. 8 Parkview Road. Croydon CR0 7DE.

ONCE again, with the pros-pect of a punch-up be-tween the European Union and Great Britain in the offing, we are bombarded with famous images from British history in which the villain-ous Euro-foe is vanquished by the determined and righteous efforts of Blighty.

A more suitable reference might be that of the Suez crisis. For now in matters eco-nomic, as then in matters military, Britain is in no position to enforce its will and would be compelled by the economic might of the EU to beat an ignominious retreat. Shane Diffily. 17 Crossgates.

Herts.

Barclays' policy on interest

HE article about my article and your sister news brother and me (Lords of the island, April 23) was published unethically and created misleading impressions. It conspicuously failed to highlight the important fact that John Sweeney and the Guardian Media Group, as owner of the Observer news-paper, are interested as defendants in the proceedings mentioned in the article.

In spite of the disclaimers. it is clear the Guardian Media Group and John Sweeney are waging a campaign against my brother and me and in the circumstances we have had to bring these proceedings both here and in France to protect our reputations from seriously defamatory allegations about us, and to protect our personal privacy, which is naturally crucial to our family's security.

In our view newspapers have a duty to be candid to their readers when they are publishing articles calculated to serve their own interests. Had you properly disclosed 7 avenue de Grande Bretagne. the fact that the author of the Monte Carlo 98000, Monaco.

paper were actively engaged in the litigation described in the article, your readers would have understood perhaps why the article was so clearly slanted against us.

A good example of this is

the misleading reference to our interest in a company which has a small share in an investment fund, part of whose portfolio includes the National Enquirer. This detail was lifted from our complaint to the BBC without explaining, as the full complaint makes clear, that my brother and I have absolutely no control whatsoever over the National Enquirer, let alone any of its articles.

It is particularly disturbing. and an abuse of the power of the freedom of the press, to give the impression you sought to create that we are responsible for articles invading people's privacy published by the National Enquirer.

David R Barclay. Le Montaigne.

A Country Diary

GLOUCESTERSHIRE: With | an Easter weekend houseful of excited little grandchildren all eager to see and celebrate the birth of a lamb, our flock of Herdwicks exercised their well-known talent for drama and irony and waited until all the family had departed, disappointed, before the first ewe lambed. And it was Hermione who came first. Little Tallulah was borne, without trouble, the day after the family had gone their various ways, and we drew breath and waited developments. waited developments. Hermione was the ewe who, two years back, rejected her first-born lamb, tossed it in the air and stalked off leaving us several weeks of bottle feeding. You can see why orphan lambs are sold off for a fiver when you get into this routine. The next year she tried to discriminate between her two ram lambs in favour of Tom over Gerry. Fortu-nately, Gerry was a very de-termined little ram and insisted on his rights. So, how would she do this year? All sweetness and light, as it turns out. Then a couple of

expensive veterinary interventions proved necessary. Firstly we had the traumatic birth of a ewe lamb to Bess, a first-time lamber at two years old, who was so tight that a caesarian section seemed to be the looming option. That was avoided but the pain and stress of the birth meant that she did not, for over a day. recognise her lamb. We had just about cracked that problem with close confinement and enhanced recognition strategies when, at lunchtime on Sunday, poor old Puffball — a dependable ewe who has lambed many times before. showed clear evidence of incipient problems. A veterinary consultation identified the problem — a breeches presentation of the first of twin ewe lambs - competently extracted by the young vet and now flourishing. It delayed Sunday lunch but we raised a glass to Puffball and her new lambs as they tottered out into the warm spring sunshine. Meanwhile. other ewes quietly got on with it as nature intended. COLIN LUCKHURST

Joanna Coles

Y friend Stephen sach minuta. This week he has been enthralling Spec-tator readers with his lofty thoughts on editors' salaries. "How much is an edi-tor worth?" he ponders, crunching the top of his Bic, before raising his lugabrious eyebrows at the ever-widening gap between edi-tors' salaries and those of the humble back. For good the humble back. For good measure Glover tosses in a few examples: Max Hastings totted up £583,000 last year, as editor of the Daily Telegraph, while Paul Dacre at the Mail lugged home £500,000 and Charlie "Gorbals" Wilson squirrelled away £693,000. "In many cases I certainly do not begrudge them," Glover murmars grandly. "How murmurs grandly. "How could I, having made some money out of journalism?" How indeed. Fact: As cofounder of the Independent, Glover sold his shares for at east £600,000; on top of that he's recently raked in two lots of redundo (a year's sal-ary twice) and a smart Mer-cedes to rev up outside his lovely Oxfordshire home. Such coyness is only to his

AM intrigued by a tempt-ing conference on offer from the PR merchants Burson-Marsteller. For a mere £528 per head, they promise the chance to sign up for a "Major One-Day Policy Conference on The Impact of Labour on Business, Industry and the City". Oddly — bearing in mind this is about the impact of the Labour Party only one out of 14 speakers advertised actually turns out to be associated with the Labour Party. Still, as the brochure assures me, Phil Cole is a "senior Labour consultant". Indeed he is-He was once assistant regional organiser for the London Labour party 1988-92. How much closer to the leadership can you get?

LM enchanted to hear

that far from being dis-couraged by the stuffy nied the first screening of its series The Underworldabout the criminal tendency — BBC1 is planning to show it again! You will remember such endearing haracters as "Mad Frankie" Fraser, "Taters" Chatham (who stealthily broke into the V&A to steal Wellington's sword) and Peter "Gentleman Thief' Scott, whose Memoirs of a Cat Burglar has already been tipped as a future Booker winner. Previous viewers. however, may puzzle over the fact that the repeat is shorter and, mysteriously. several of the other cuddiler characters are missing altogether. After investigation, I discover why. They are currently awaiting trial for

EANWHILE I'm relieved that Terry Major-Ball bas sufficiently recovered from his jet-lag to recount in detail his work schedule from the Melbourne Flower Show. On Friday he was lucky enough to visit the home of Keith Dunstan, one of Australia's most distinguished columnists, who now runs a winery. "I'm happy to say he's a fan of my book Major Major," Terry tells me chat-tily. "Interestingly for me I see from his autobiography, No Brains At All, when he came to England in 1953 to cover the Coronation, he and his wife Jean lived in Wallington just down the road from me! Later I ap-peared on a variety show called Hey Hey! It's Saturday! I must confess I enjoy doing TV shows — maybe it's my showbiz genes." Quite possibly, Terry. Quite

mys' policy on interest

'M glad to see a brief resurgence of the Rlitz spirit in Hammersmith on Wednesday night. As Paul Hancock, who lives in the row of houses closest to the bomb site, commented to the Press Assocation: "I heard a bang. I looked at my wife and we raised our

Y Hollywood friend, the actor Mick Nelte, is safely out of hospitel after having his scro-tum snipped. "Tve had them tightened up," he tells me cheerfully. "I don't find nude scenes difficult but my testicles just hung so low-Once you're over 50 everything sags doesn't it?" In-deed it does, Nick. Indeed, it



Harlots come out to play again

Commentary

Peter Preston

ELDOM in history have so few owed so much to so many. The Euro-sceptics, long on noise and short on numbers, are hugging themselves as the leader writers pile on the column inches. Phone the Sun to say No to an "Orwell-ian super state". Join the Daily Express in kicking "menacing, bullying Helmut Kohl" where it hurts. Stand firm with the Daily Telegraph against an "irrecoverable act of national betrayal". Heaven bless Jimmy Goldsmith. And don't forget to put the cat out. The issue, their issue, has finally taken off, they say. A fish course, a beef course and newspaper editors, head waters upon public opinion, have all picked the same menn. The Times, the Telegraph, the Sun, the Mail and

even the Express are Eurorotting away with a will, play-

ing footsie with Sir Jams, puting the boot into the "disaster" that is Johnny. How sentlent, how formidable, how deeply indicative! "Can you ever remember such a line up?" asks an ecstatic sceptic.

Actually, yes. Or rather I am reminded of one by a counle of highly entertaining am reminded of one by a cou-ple of highly entertaining books of newspaper history-making out this week. One is Tickle The Public from your very own Matthew Engel. The other is The Great Cutsiders by SJ Taylor, a refreshingly jaunty biography of the first Lords Northcliffe and Rother-mere timed to celebrate 100.

"Continuing the story of the Men who made the Mail, Pages 56-57".
The story itself was inevitably a touch selective. It found no newsprint space to mention the United Empire Party. Let me (with help from Engel and Taylor) fill you in.

mere timed to calebrate 100 years of the Daily Mail — and

recently serialised by that proud organ with the trailer

As the 20s turned, Lord Beaverbrook, a rich, ambitious ego with a lizard charm, held Stanley Baldwin in rare con-Stanley Baldwin in Fare con-tempt. Baldwin was an ordi-nary bloke as Tory leaders went: as ordinary as, well, John Major. Beaverbrook and his unlikely mate Rother-mere, kings of the Express,

debate that had driven Con-servatives hairless for a cen-tury. There was thus an Em-pire Crusade, and a "party" to match, when Baldwin first half-promised to a hold a referendum on food taxes, and then changed his mind.

"British manufacturers and

British workpeople are turn-ing out the best goods to be bought in the world", a Mail leader intoned on day one. But our home politicians were letting them down whilst "foreign countries"
played dirty. The Express
issued "First Marching
Orders" to its fledgeling "Crusaders". Express readers
were required to eat the new Imperial loaf — "Empire Wheat, British mills in Brit-

The movement, as Sally Taylor observes, "preyed on people's fears: that foreign businessmen were getting the upper hand, that foreign food-stuffs of all kinds were drivents the local fearment of the ing the local farmer out of business, that Britain was on the skids and only draconian measures could stop the

something.

Beaverbrook's shell party did well in some local elections. "The Empire wins South Paddington" trumpeted

an Express headline. It pushed the Conservatives into a humiliating third in the Islington byelection. The press line-up from the Beaver-brook/Rothermere stable in an age before television (or even John Humphrys) was absolutely formidable: the Sunday and Daily Express, the Mail, the Evening News, the Standard, the Daily Mir-ror, the Dispatch, the Sunday Post. Rupert would love Tony to allow him such critical

Baldwin, meanwhile, was

One acrid sentence burst the balloon of selfimportance and mischief and rampant ambition

nervelessly tottering on the brink of resignation. The Mail launched a killer strike on his betrayal of his old dad. And then? Then Baldwin, with a little

help from Rudyard Kipling, made a byelection speech which ended with almost the only quote of his anybody remembers. "What the pro-prietorship of these papers is aiming at is power, and power without responsibility — the prerogative of the harlot throughout the ages".

power, he said wanly, was "nauseating", reflections of a total fallacy. "How could I have any illusions on this score after the way Baldwin

managed to survive years of the most bitter attacks on his muddle-headed policies?"

I make no galumphing parallels. Sir Jams, lizard smile apart, is not the Beaver. (He, after all, is only a failed press lord.) This referendum Bald. is not that referendum. Bald-win is not quite John Major.

The Empire is a cold heap of ashes. But cynically fanned ashes. But cynically famed fear of foreigners? The running of diseased sheep brains up every handy flagpole? The facile garbage of xenophobia? The prevailing mood of flailing disquiet? The hunt for belief in something? The mock populism of young leader writers in waistcoats putting down the phone to Los Angeles and waxing patriotic about an England they would never dream of holidaying in? never dream of holidaying in? The assumption that, because everybody is writing it. everybody in the streets must be saying it?

The querulous Major, alas, seems doomed only to de-nounce about shits in private and cloud cuckoo-lands in public. Neither the phrases nor the phiegm. I suppose, after a warm beer and fish fingers, he thinks Kipling was the chap who made the cakes.

Tickle The Public is published by Gollancz: The Great Outsiders by Weidenfeld, Both £20

eral reasons, of which Mr Duncan-Smith's 10-minute-

rule bill is only one element. Sir James Goldsmith, rich, reactionary and magnifi-

cently irresponsible, set up camp at the Dorchester to

woo opinion-formers and

wreck the cohesion of the party. John Redwood duly

Meanwhile the ailing Daily
Express finally succumbed to

MJD, that myopic form of

Mad Journalism Disease.

which means the pro-Europe-

ans can expect no more

column inches there than they get in the rest of the Tory pack. "Will the Sun back Blair at the election?" is now

decisively if what remains of

the Government showed any sign of firmness of purpose.

Alas for Mr Major, it has never been his strong suit.

The mishandling of the divpoint. Tory MPs were out

raged by Tony Blair's cheap

point-scoring at Question

vote. How can that be a defeat

for the Government?" ask

ministers. Quite easily, actu-

Yes, Mr Major signalled a free vote on the bill's "mat-

ters of conscience" last No-

vember, though the difference

between a waiting period of 12 or 18 months is hardly one

of profound principle. Be-

eides it was a Gonernment

bill which 34 ministers op-

N THE bad old days,

before market Stalinism gripped the legislative process, Labour cabinets

encouraged back-

benchers to introduce divorce

or abortion bills. Over Sunday

trading and lower abortion times even Mr Major's busi-

of the chairman, Brian Ma-whinney, blames the Govern-

a question on MPs' lips. None of which need matter

paid a wary call.

slide". In a world where 'people often didn't know what to believe — here was ambition. The balloon of self-importance and mischief and rampant ambition. My new role as ambition. The party of the Empire faded as swiftly in defeat as any of Ross Perot's confections. And a chastened Rothermer chatted privately to one of his editors. The nonsense talked about newspaper power he said would never he would never minder



Bel Littlejohn

HERE'S one thing we can all agree on. She's a lovely lady. A truly lovely, lovely lady. One of the loveliest ladies in modern politics. With her Brummie wit and rough-and-ready Brummie charm, Clare Short doesn't have an enemy in the House, except for those who can't stand her. But she's got to learn that being lovely isn't everything when it comes to winning elections. To put it kindly, I sometimes wish she'd take more notice of that timely catchphrase, first coined by the late, great Nye Bevan: "Why don't you just shut your big fat gob?"

But as I was saying, Clare Short's a lovely lady. I've known her for nearly two de-cades now — that's almost 20 years in metric. She first rose to fame way back in the early 70s as Clare Long, the Brum-mie with the heart of gold who co-managed the hairdressing salon at the Crossroads Motel with Vera Downend in the long-running TV series of the same name. Vera was the toughie, the hard-headed busi-nesswoman, and Clare was the more reckless and impul-

sive one, given to shouting her mouth off at customers and

then regretting it later. It led to that special sort of friction which is the stuff of TV drama. In one memorable episode, first broadcast on November 11, 1974, the proprietor of the entire Crossroads complex, Meg Richardson, played by the late Noele Gordon, drops into the salon for a quick perm. Anyway, Vera Downend is making a tremen-dous fuss of her boss, when the headstrong Clare once again puts her foot in it. "Bli-mey," she pipes up. "With a face like yours, I don't know

why you bother." In another episode broadcast six months later, in May, 1975 — the then Home
Secretary, Roy Jenkins, on a
whistle-stop tour of Birmingham, has called in at the salon
on a fact-finding tour of small
businesses in the Midlands,
Greatly impressed by what he
sees in the salon, the Home Secretary agrees to a quick trim. Vera Downend already has her hands full with a client, so she deputes the lovely. headstrong Clare to see to the

Home Secretary.
The Home Secretary seems to be accepting Clare's rough Brummie banter ("Blimey, Roy — you're fat and no mis-take!") with equanimity. But then the time comes to present him with the bill. In a hurriedly whispered conversa-tion, Vera tells Clare that the Home Secretary's trim is "on

the house". But Clare isn't having any of it. She wants to charge him double. "Any road up, 'e can afford it, can't 'e?" she exclaims in her lovely Brummie accent.

At this point, the Home Secretary, who has overheard their negotiations, steps into the debate. "I'm sure we can awwive at some weasonable compwomise," he purrs. Vera then reminds them both of the principles of collective responsibility. Clare, she maintains, has spoken out of turn. Clare stands corrected, the Home Secretary leaves without paying a penny and Vera re-estab-lishes her authority. At this, Clare exits in a huff, just as Benny — played by the strug-gling young actor John Prescott — enters wearing his familiar woolly hat. "Blimey what's up with 'er?" he asks.
Vera explains the position.
"Well in my opinion," concludes Benny with a shake of his head, "you come to a collective agreement about something, you have a responsibillty to observe it. If not, Clare'd better reconsider her

Clare d better reconsider her future in this salon." The cam-era freezes on the shocked face of Vera. Theme music. Titles. End of episode. Stirring stuff, prophetic in its way, and it has remained in my mind ever since. Who'd ve thought that, 21 years later, the very same couple — John and Clare — both of them having left Crossroads Motel so many moons ago and both now occupying senior po-sitions at the heart of New Labour, should once again come to blows in such similar

S Peter Mandelson has already made plain, New Labour ain't about anything if it ain't about low-ering taxes for the better-off, and it's high time Clare — lovely, headstrong Clare — began to realise this. If ever we're going to be able to do anything to help the poor, the homeless, the elderly, the sick and the underprivileged, it'll only be after we have done something to assist the average healthy young family with two cripplingly expensive homes, whopping financial outgoings and the additional burden of two or more child-

ren in private education. Strictly between you and me. Tony and John have asked me to keep a gentle eye on Clare. It's for her own good. She's got one helluva lot to offer New Labour in terms of a personality, b frankly politics is just not her. Clare's future in the New Labour shadow cabinet remains assured, but from now on in the brand-new posi-tion of "Trade and Industry Spokesperson (Staples)". Okay, she might seek to use her new position to argue for free staples for the disabled, or more expensive staples for the better-off. But we can handle it. After all, every government needs its hot-heads, and hot-heads don't come any lovelier



Losing their grip

The Government is staggering from one crisis to another under the weak leadership of John Major, argues Michael White. Things can't go on like this

the Surrey Mirror, the Think-ing Plotter's Plotter observes, ing Plotter's Plotter observes, without apparent irony, "Some of these people must have a death wish."

Sir George was referring to Tories in his constituency who are trying to deselect him for excessive Euro-scepticism and other thought crimes. But he could have been talking about any number of colleagues at Westminster in assorted permutations. It was rightwing profamily

T IS not often that Sir ally vote for the defeat (34 of them, four of cabinet rank, for the nation. But in this week's edition of who staged a publicity coup plus 131 backbenchers).

It was also rightwingers who staged a publicity coup for Iain Duncan-Smith's token bill to tame the powers of the European Court of Justice. Defeated by 83 votes to 77 mainly Tory and Unionist votes, the event was of marginal symbolic importance. Yet it led Wednesday's Times and Telegraph.

tea-room gossips, dutifully retailed in the Tory tabloids this week even as it was stoutly denied by the two ministers allies. It does not take long to trace the gossip.

There have been no three-line white this week and only 396 "Hezza was more aggressive than one would have exthan one would have expected: the populist side of him came out," they mutter mhelpfully. "Well, it wasn't a had way for Dorreli to play a right-of-centre card, was it?" they murmur. They said the same when the Health Secretary, a blameless family man, joined Michael Howard, Peter joined Michael Howard, Peter who just want to get it over (though not before pensions

who are trying to deselect him for excessive Euro-scepticism and other thought crimes. But he could have been talking about any number of colleagues at Westminster in assorted permutations. It was rightwing pro-family Tories who engineered Westmesday night's deficiat on the divorce bill, which ministers inceptly tried to shring off yestarday — that is, those ministers who did not actu-smill and when the lawyers said it might be tricky. At mood around Westminster is mood around Westminster is mood around Westminster is more than a continuous triple true, but never mind. That is how the same taking played. Sir the could change. He is a proud, prickly man and by flushing out Redword last the Tory sceptics, not the proverbial pragmatists, who hang around the lobbies talk ing up their campaigns, just as the Bennites did in the 70s. With hindsight, this may be the week when the Conservative Party tilted decisively away from the Majorite balling and Michael Heseltine who raised expectation of "retaliatory" steps against Europe over the beef ban, only to yesterday — that is, those ministers who did not actu-

least it was according to the | much the same, except that whips this week and only 396
MPs actually voted on the
fateful divorce clause.
Those who believe they can

same when the Health Secretary, a blameless family man, joined Michael Howard, Peter Lilley and William Hague in the pro-family lobby over divorce.

Riddle: what do they have in common? Leadership hopes. Not quite true, but never mind. That is how the game is being played. Sir George is right. After three years of protracted crisis, staggering from one to another like a drunk on a pub crawl, the Government

though not even Dr Mawhin-ney could have predicted that the Daily Mail would have turned Lord Chancellor Mackay into a fiendish cross between Steve Norris and the As for the five-week-old beef-crisis, the sceptics think it is the defining moment when voters colleges late Jimmy Hendrix. when voters coalesce around their analysis. Clearly the tabloid circulation managers think the same, though most of them also thought John Redwood would topple Mr Major last July. Like the Goldsmith bubble it is intoxicating fantasy. But their bitterness over the cabi-net's Grand Old Duke of York net's Grand Old Duke of York tactics is understandable. Why should Tory MPs believe promises to deploy unspecified "other options" if Europe proves unreasonable over the beef ban? We have been here before, over fish, over budgets and proves a purified majority.

gets, over qualified-majority voting. "It requires willpower to gum up the works in Brussels for three weeks, as de Gaulle used to do to get his way. We don't have it," say the sceptics. Will-power or talent, actually. Both are

What Major shows no sign of doing yet is throwing in the towel. That could change. He is a proud, prickly man and by flushing out Redwood last summer be managed to kill.



on red hot plates, whilst the back of his legs are hit in time to music. Onlookers terms him and force him to drink beer. Why? Because they're teaching him to 'dance' for tourists who pay to watch his agonising waitz.

The World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) rescues 'dancing bears' and takes them to sanctuaries where they can be free of pain and suffering. But we where they can be tree or pain and surreing. But we can't carry out our *Ric-caving* work without the support of people like you. Your gift of just £10, or whatever you can afford, will help cut the chains of impocent animals. So please send your donation today. He's counting on you.

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Danger man of **Vietnam**

er of the victorious commuof South Vietnam during the spring of 1975. He was a brilliant military leader, the sized and abandoned most of equal of the far-better known Vo Nguyen Giap, who led the successful war against the French and is generally convictories in the history of French and is generally con-sidered one of the century's great generals.

statement on his death de-scribed him as "absolutely faithful" to the Communist Party, but Tra was anything but docile and disciplined Like most great military strategists, he was daring and thoroughly sceptical of con-ventional wisdom. He was in difficulty with Party leaders in Hanoi for most of the last 20 years of his life, and a continu-ous source of public embarcommunist but also a thorough nonconformist - not of wood, but a real

In the autumn of 1974, Tra strongly opposed the more restricted and far less ambitious military campaign that the army's chief-of-staff. Van Tien Dung, proposed. Tra was certain that the generals liv-ing in Hanoi had no real sense

Brian Baxter writes: I was

sorry that shortage of space

meant the truncation of my

Letter

Birthdays

ENERAL Tran | morale, and that they could Van Tra. who has died in Ho Chi pare weapons on each side. He Minh City aged 77. Forced their hand on the scope pare weapons on each side. He forced their hand on the scope and timing of the campaign. but he also ignored many of nist army in the southern half | the restrictions they attempted to impose on him. The huge Saigon army cap-

modern warfare — at least a year before the Party's The official Vietnamese stunned leaders thought possible.

General Dung immediately

wrote a memoir taking most of the credit, deeply alienating many generals and Party leaders in the south thereby. Tra spent the next years writing his own five-volume history of straight. The army's censors locked up the manuscript, but his friends in the southern Party defied them and printed volume dealing with the end of the war.

The work was banned, but not before it sold widely. US intelligence immediately translated what is a remarkably graphic account of the reality and tension of leaders. vain and arrogant men among them, in deep conflict with each other. The book also confirms how wars inevitably transcend all those who at-



Nonconformist leader . . . Tra's history of the war was locked up by the authorities

welfare and pensions drasti-cally, but in the process they took up the massive corrup-

tion accompanying these inno-vations and also supported a

small pro-democratic minor-

ity within the Party leader-ship. They even published their own journal, which was

At this point, Tra was poten-

tially a very dangerous man, since his credentials and pres-

tige were unrivalled. He em-bodied revolutionary legiti-macy, and disgruntled.

ters the myth of an omnipo-tent and omniscient Party. Tra's powerful unautho rised history of the war's end is the most influential written by a communist. Dung and many of the Party's leaders were portrayed in irreverent, often derisory terms.

HE REMAINING manuscript has never been printed. But Tra's prestige communists, especially in the army, grew even larger, not least because General Dung's many critics within the military were eager to set the record straight. Dung eventually was removed from the army and the polithuro in disgrace.

Tra's next conflict with the official Party came when he became the best-known leader of over 100 retired senior offi-

cers and Party leaders who | looked to him for leadership. | was doing but he very much formed an unauthorised veterans' organisation in 1987, | which quickly spread among | within the army itself, and the | to the new official organisadisgruntled communist for-mer soldiers and cadres army has since evolved into the most important group throughout the south. Initially the group was intended to dewithin the government strongly opposed to "market socialism". Indeed, it now publicly fend the interests of millions of veterans who have suffered from the new "market" reforms, which reduced social

writes about corruption far more strongly than Tra's group ever dared eight years ago. Few like him — a known fighter with impeccable credentials and charisma — have existed in the history of communist Vietnam.

In the spring of 1990 Tra's group was banned and an offi-cial veterans alternative to it created. Tra was not molester directly, but several dozen Party dissidents were harassed and confined to their houses or, in a few cases, ar rested. Tra was by then ill and obviously tired; he remained

tion was ambiguous. Tran Van Tra hoped, even

expected, that the banned por-tions of his authoritative, personal account of the war would eventually be published. If they are ever released in the form he wrote them, this remarkably original personality will fight one last battle. Tran Van Tra, ironically, may perhaps yet come back to haunt some of the officials who upon his death deluged him with insin-cere eulogies. He remains a

Gabriel Kolko Kolko is the author of Anaton of War, a history of the Vietnam war (published by I B Tauris)

François-Régis Bastide

France's ambassador of culture

soon banned.

obituary notice on David Shipman (April 24), especially references to his major his tory of the cinema and his book celebrating its centetide, who has died aged nary. Also his work as a broadcaster, lecturer and journalist. And his work with 69. was famous in France for a radio programme, Le Masque et la the NFT as a fellow consul-Plume, Every Sunday evening from 1952 onwards millions of tant and programmer. On a French people would listen to an hour-long discussion in which four critics would disrect the assumption that his biography of Fred Astaire would remain incomplete. His companion and collaborator cuss the latest films, plays, books and exhibitions. Bastide would handle his Felix Brenner tells me that he intends to complete the work they began last year for publication as planned before David's sudden death.

speakers neatly, sometimes encouraging the violent de-nunciations with which one critic would greet anything experimental, sometimes tempting a more timid He also presented the correspondence which his pro-gramme aroused and thereby John Battle, Labour MP, 45; maintained contact with some of his vast audience. But however popular and Carol Burnett, actresss, comedienne and singer, 60: Charlie Chester, comedian. respected he was, it was as-82; David Coleman, sports commentator, 70; Jack Dougtonishing that, with the advent of the socialist governlas, actor and comedian, 69: Sir Gordon Downey, parlia-mentary ethics watchdog, 68; appointed ambassador to Den-

Duane Eddy, guitarist, 58; Jimmy Gluffre, jazz clarinet-ist and composer, 76; Justin To British eyes this showed how French governments were on their knees to what Gosling, philosopher, princi-pal. St Edmund Hall, Oxford, they thought to be culture. No British government, we think proudly, would feel obliged to 66; Prof Margaret Gowing. scientific historian, 75; Stu-art Higgins, editor, the Sun. appoint the presenter of Start the Week as ambassador to Stockholm. 40; Sir James Holt, medieval historian, 74; Dr Lynne Jones, Labour MP, 45; Dr

But the truth is that Fran-cois-Regis Bastide was an extraordinary man. Born in Biarritz in 1926 he volunteered to join the Free French army after it had returned to France in 1944. He fought in Germany and was awarded the Croix de Guerre. In 1947 he became musical director of Sarrebruck radio. He was always an accomplished musi-cian, both as a planist and, in his large house in Biarritz, as an organist. In 1947, too, he

"RANÇOIS-REGIS Bas- | ticularly noticed for its criti- | the same time he began to in- | tics became more official in | cisms of the way in which the terest himself in French leaved in Germany socialism, not so much via pointed him to head a comand for its description of life the official party as by those mission examining relations with a Moroccan unit of the

French army.
Shortly afterwards he began his work with French radio, when he wrote an adap-tation of Flaubert's Education Sentimentale before moving on to Le Masque et la Plume. Further novels followed. At

socialism, not so much via the official party as by those who were on the fringes. Critics would say that he became one of the smart, radical chic set who surrounded François Mitterrand, but others would point out that he was equally friendly with the more independent Michel Rocard. His activities in local poli-

between television and cul-ture. It could be said that his position in the literary world became more official, too when he became a member of the jury, awarding the annual Médicis prize.

As ambassador to Copenhagen, he was able to deploy a



particular knowledge of Scan-dinavia, which came partly from his first marriage to a

A further accomplishment of this remarkable man was his authorship of plays, both Concerto, where the the heroine was to play the third piano concerto of Ravel, a composition that does not ense of destruction. Perhaps it was no wonder that he was used to write a weekly article about it.

As a novelist Bastide wrote in the classical tradition. Much of his writing was autobiographical, and he had a chronicler's eye for detail. He meets Camus in the street, carrying a white mackintosh over his arm, although it is August. There is a scene where a man engages in a ter-rible argument with his wife, but all she notices is that he pronounces the word Neuilly" like someone from

looked like Cocteau. He admired Flaubert. He sought to

Swedish woman but also from his fascination with northern Europe (which was typical of someone from southern France). In 1981 his novel L'Enchanteur et nous was set in the strange light of a Baltic island (and is also said to contain a portrait of Mitterrand). From 1985 he was ambass in Vienna and from 1988 he was the permanent represen-

tative of France in Unesco.

the provinces. Bastide knew everyone. He

imitate Saint-Simon. He was the epitome of the cultured Frenchman.

Douglas Johnson

François-Régis Bastide, Writer broadcaster, born July 1, 1926; died April 16, 1996 Sir William Wilkinson

Conservation with passion

63, had a distinguished career in business but his real passion lay in the enjoyment and conservation of nature. He was a dominant figure in nature conservation and could have truly claimed to have changed the world for the better, though he himself would have been too modest to do so.
As Chairman of the Nature

Conservancy Council during the 1980s, he set the agenda for reversing 30 years of environmental descriptions of the council descriptions of th mental despoliation in this country. When the NCC was dismembered after a political coup by Nicholas Ridley, then Secretary of State for the Environment. ronment, Wilkinson contin-ued his struggle to save Britain's natural heritage by working in the voluntary sec-tor, where he acted as a source of moral authority and wise advice to a number of organisations. There is hardly a na-ture conservation charity of which he was not a council member or vice-president. He was the son of Denys

Wilkinson, a master at Eton College, where he became a Kings Scholar and then went on to Trinity College, Cam-bridge. Family holidays were spent on the Gower Peninsula in South Wales, and from his father he acquired the deep love of birds which was to pro-vide the guiding spirit of his

His first job took him to Tur-key where he spent four and a half years. He became fasci-nated by the birds of that region and in 1967 he helped to found the Ornithological Soci-

ety of Turkey. He continued his career in business and finance, becoming a director of Lonrho from 1970 to 1973 and of Kleinwort Benson from 1973 to 1985. He remained involved in conser vation, serving on the Council of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and was twice appointed Honorary Treasurer, a post for which he had the ideal combination of financial acumen, friendly authority and awareness of the important issues affecting birds. He was an ideal chairman for the NCC.

With the passage of the Wildlife and Countryside Act in 1981, the NCC had acquired new powers, including the ability to protect Sites of Special Scientific Interest. Under the Act all existing sites had to be renotified while there was pressure for the number of sites to be increased to cover all the major areas of importance. Under Wilkinson's chairmanship the for the fleatre and television. NCC produced a series of doctelevision drama. The Third strategy for nature conservation in Britain. Morale in the Council was high and there was a real feeling that the lessons of the 1960s and 1970s had exist. The author's love of been learned and that now a music was combined to a mechanism existed to protect our dwindling natural heri-tage. Much of the NCCs vision. a believer in the Zodiac and optimism and self-confidence came from Wilkinson's

reports.
Then in 1968 he suffered a stroke during heart surgery, which left him with restricted vision. There were problems too at the NCC, which for some years been concerned about the afforestation of the Flow Country, a huge area of peatland in Caithness and Sutherland. Planting in this area, one of the few true wildernesses in Britain, was only viable with favourable tax treatment. In 1987 the NCC published two reports, ex-plaining the area's importance as a bird and plant habitat, which were instrumental in persuading the Chancellor to change the tax treatment of forestry in his 1988 budget. The decision was resented in Scotland where it was seen as England (the NCC was based in Peterborough), denying Scottish landowners the right to manage their land and Scot-

Who has died aged in forestry. For once Wilkinin forestry. For once Wilkinson falled to negotiate a compromise. In July 1989 Nicholas Ridley, who had long-believed that nature conservation was best left to private landowrs ers, announced the division of the NCC into separate agencies for England, Scotland and Wales, Wilkinson, bitterly opposed to the decision, was not

After his protests, the proposal was modified and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee was set up under an independent chairman to co-ordinate data collection and international responsibilities for nature conservation, Wilfor nature conservation. Wil-kinson saw this as a second best which weakened what had begun to be an effective body for nature protection. When the NCC was dis-banded in 1991 Wilkinson, who had received a knight-hood in 1989, was free to return to the voluntary sector.

return to the voluntary sector. He became a council member of the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust and the Game Conser-



reversing Wilkinson . . . decades of despoilation

vancy Trust and was made a vice-president of many organi-sations including the RSPB. He encouraged co-operation between wildlife charities which has led to them, rather than government agencies, setting the conservation agenda in the 1990s. In 1992 he took over the

chairmanship of Plantlife, the newly-formed plant conservation charity which benefited greatly from his calm authority and kindly wisdom. In 1993 he was awarded the Wildlife Trusts' Christopher Cadbury Medal. He continued his involvement in conservation to the last, never allowing his near-blindness to interfere with his work or his enjoy-Kate Loudon in 1964, who was to prove a constant support to him throughout his life. They had three children.

Adrian Darby

William Wilkinson, businessman and conservationist; born July 22. 1932; died April 12, 1996

Death Notices

In Memoriam

Engagements

Mr A.S.BATLEY and Mice S.L.G. Mir A.S.BATLEY and Miss S.L.GAJN, The engagement is announced batween Andrew, youngest son of Mir and Mirs A.I., Belley of Bramilley, Hampshire and Sharon, cider despiter of the late Mir K.A.Gain and Mirs Gain of Rowledge, Surrey.

Jackdaw



Anne McLaren, biologist, 69; Prof Wilfrid Mellers, com-

poser. 82: Sir Oliver Millar,

former Surveyor of the

Queen's Pictures, 73; Peter

Schaufuss, director of ballet.

Deutsche Oper, Berlin, 46; Dame Margaret Scott, founding director, Australian Ballet School, 74; Kathleen

(Koo) Stark, actress, photog-

rapher, 40; Roger Taylor, rock drummer, 36; Andrea

Home front

Bente Hogh lives with David Irving, the historian who has his own special stant on Hitler and the Holocaust, Bente doesn't agree with David's views but she is the mother of their child. She told Nicholas Farrell of The Speciator about living with David:

Once, several years ago, I asked Mr Irving if he was mad. He said that operating as he does on the outer edge of intellectual hyperspace, he sometimes wondered, but unfortunately he had no thermometer to stick into his brain to find out. Did Mrs Hogh think the father of her child was evil? "He definitely has an evil streak in

hum." Was this attractive? "No.

charming side. He's a bit of a split personality. It's a constant challenge being with David. No day is the same. He has all these different moods."

Moods? What moods? "The

other day I gave him a cup of coffee and I had not preheated the cup. He likes his cup pre-heated in boiling water. And so he just threw everything in the sink." She smiled as she recalled the incident. She seems to find much about him amusing. Unlike Hitler, Mr Irving is not a vegetarian, but he has many little dosmestic obsessions. His beer must be served in a frosted glass. He insists on a three course dinner with soup to start. Wasn't that a bit of a bore for her? "Not if you buy ready-cooked meals," she said with a chuckle. "David does not like to do anything domestic. He thinks that should be entirely up to the woman. Occasionally he comes and grabs the Hoover from me to show how to work it. Oh, and when you stick

stamps on an envelope they

must be stuck on completely

project. If we eliminated raccare, because everybody

Ad nauseam LORNA Russell in Everywoman has been taking a close look at television advertising:

The 'N' word Black Americans have been telling The New Yorker about use of the word "nigger", or its more acceptable relative, "nigga". Barron Clairborne (29. photographer): "If everyone had a decent job and the same rights as everybody else, people could call you 'nigger' all the way to your nice home and your nice car, and you wouldn't care. I'm sure Eddie Murphy feels a little hurt when he's called 'nigger.' But then he gets into his Jacuzzi, and it soothes a little quicker than if I go back to my ism, we could have Nigger University and Honkytown and Yellow Fever College, and my Chinese friends and my white friend and I could go to Sambo Burger and have some Whitey french fries and nobody would would have equal opportunity and the word would have no

Characters: Assorted sassy

lassies; location: A pub, a build-ing site, a coalmine Storyline: In trendy black and white to the tune of "I'm going my hair", loads of slightly comic looking women do the "modern women" things such as arm-wrestle in the pub, laugh too loudly, drink a lot. drill holes in roads and lug heavy objects around. But then the scene changes. A white on black version of the classic feminist slocan: "A woman needs a man like a fish needs a bicycle appears and the music slows. sounding warped and sinister. Next there's a shot of an empty and eerie maternity ward ... Ha, ha, you stupid girls, you went and washed that man right out of your hair and then there was no one to help you fulfill your primary purpose: to have babies. And if that weren't enough, we are told: "Not everything in black and white makes sense." And finally, in case you hadn't quite got the

point yet, there is a shot of a

fish riding a bicycle. Appeals to: Right-wing, anti-

values at a rought guess

feminist proponents of family

Score: 0. For a prime example of the backlash you need look

Seen it

Newspaper people love those movie scenes where the presses roll and an overseer pulls a copy of a paper from the presses, so a headline such as EILLER STALES CHICAGO STREETS can be read. Bob Thomas, for many years Hollywood correspondent of The Associated Press, has been telling readers o The International Herald Tribune about more up-to-date

film cliches: The telephone answering machine: The first thing the heroine does when she enters her apartment is to press the playback button. The message is either a jilted boyfriend pleading for another chance or a homicidal maniac vowing

The car chase: If it is staged in hilly San Francisco, as half of them are, one scene is obligatory: the car becoming airborne as it plunges over the brow of a hill. No matter where it occurs it must include a shot of the crooks or the cops careening

the wrong way on a one-way street, the oncoming cars scattering, horns blaring. The computer: With a witness's description of a suspect, the cop gives the machine a few tweaks

Noveľs wake

George Steiner is worrying about the novel, in Prospect: We are getting very tired in our novel writing, that makes perfect sense, there is nothing



New Yorker . . . black power

here, a click there, and suddenly the image of the killer appears on the screen.



tragedy, all have great mo-ments, then they ebb. Novels will continue to be written for some time, but increasingly the search is on for hybrid forms, what we call fact/fiction. This alerts us to something impor-tant. What novel can today compete with the best of report-age, the best of immediate nar-

apocalyptic about it. Genres

rise, genres fall, the epic, the verse epic, the formal verse

rative? Not only the media, but also journalism in the high and legitimate sense, the masters of the immediate whom we can read every day. James Joyce was certain that Finnegans Wake would be the

end of the novel. It is a very deliberate attempt, marvellously arrogant, to say. "Not after this, this is it. In Ulysses I had once more done the totality, once more held the world in one grasp, Now Finnegars Wake is the chaos of the night." and when told it was unreadable he said. "Of course, that is the point, then you have understood. This is meant to be the epilogue." There are still excellent novels after Finnegans Wake. But my guess is that

nothing at the moment is more

artificial, in some ways more a gamble against reality, than a first novel, and I think many publishers know this.

Attitudes Barbora Cartiand has not been

worrying too much about the future of the novel. Dominic Lutyens profiles her in Attitude. Not surprisingly, she occasion-ally sounds as if she holds the readers in contempt: "You can't lose if you give them handsome highwaymen, duels, 3-foot fountains and whacking great horses and dogs all over

the place." And Barbara per-mits herself the eccentricity of being an Anglican while swearing by reincarnation. But the ultimate proof of her standing [...] is her reprimanding of the Royals: "Charles and Diana divorced because no Englishman will make love to an hysterical woman."

Jackdaw wonts your jewels. Email jackdawii guardian.co.uk: fax 0171-713 4366; Jackdaw, The . Guardian, 119 Forringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER.

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Model of a modern motor company, page 12

Tomorrow: The art of selling memorabilia

Financial Editor: Alex Brummer Telephone: 0171-239-9610 Fax: 0171-833-4456

Pirc raises gas pressure, page 12 Plus: Italy's ERM gamble

Finance Guardian

Those who know their onions hit out at the EU

Nadia Rybarova in Prague

N A CRY for help at being sliced out of their own business, Czech farmers yesterday dumped three tonnes of onions on the agriculture ministry steps. Farmers are faced with throwing away about 20,000 tonnes of union this year as their home-grown produce is priced out of the Czech market by inferior imports from European Union countries, according to Josef Krizek, an opposi-tion Czech-Moravian Union

anxious to join the EU, is complaining of the union's trade practices, such as the protection of domestic in-dustries against imports from central Europe, and the sale of excess produce from the EU's subsidised farms. "We are just the EU's garbage can," Mr Krizek said. For at least one civil servant (pictured right) the farmers' surplus



Şterling at seven-month record ● High street sales edge upward ● Pressure on for interest rate cut

Soaring pound aids Clarke

seven-month high on the foreign ex-changes yesterday, fuelling hopes that the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, would cut interest rate cuts to keep the economy

· Hints that further reductions in the cost of German berrowing could follow last sent the pound soaring against the mark, to close almost a pfennig up at 2.8111. City analysts said the March sales were just 0.2 per | mist at DKB International, | cellor meets the Governor of | uary and March were 2.1 per | March.

strengthening pound would cent up on the preceding give Mr Clarke the ammuni month, after a revised jump of tion he needs to overrule the Bank of England — which has been concerned about the inflationary implications of a weak currency — and cut base rates from the present 6

The pressure on Mr Clarke was further fuelled by official ligures out yesterday showing a smaller-than-expected rise in retail activity last month. The Office for National Sta-tistics said the volume of high street sales rose by 0.4 per cent in the first three months of the year — the slowest rate since last November — while

0.8 per cent in February. Dealers, initially wrong-footed by the worse-than-ex-

tracted by comments from Bundesbank council member Franz-Christoph Zeitler, which sparked speculation that last week's reduction could mark the start of aggressive policy easing by Germany's central bank.

room for manouevre, rather This left further cuts on the

agenda, he said. Gerard Lyons, chief econo-

DOWERGEN was em-broiled in a furious

Government last night

when it emerged that the

electricity generator may

force a Monopolies and

Mergers Commission in-

quiry into the entire indus-

try by dropping an under-

taking to foster competi-tion by disposing of two

PowerGen's hard line

stance sent relations be-

tween the Trade and Indus

try Secretary, Ian Lang.

Ed Wallis to a new low.

public row with the

Chris Berrie

said that markets were reacting to a deliberate attempt by the Buba to bring down the value of the mark and ease the pressure on industry. City analysts said the comhination of a stronger pound, alowing domestic economic

hand on rates. Jonathan Loynes, UK econ-omist at HSBC Markets, said: Consumers are returning to the high street — but the economy still needs rate cuts, and industry needs them des-

growth and political pressure

would force the Chancellor's

Some economists have pen-cilled in a cut when the Chan-

The PowerGen board is due to meet shortly to con-

sider refusing to complete an agreement to sell 2,000

megawatts of plant to East-

ern Group, the regional

electricity company owned

The disposal of the plant was agreed by PowerGen under pressure from industry watchdog Stephen Littlechild.

A refusal to complete the

deal - which was subject to

approval of PowerGen's bid

would cause the watchdog

for Midlands Electricity -

PowerGen threatens retaliation

after Lang's takeover blackball

decision on Wednesday to But National Power, its block PowerGen and larger rival, said yesterday

National Power's wish to that it would sell 4,000 buy regional electricity megawatts of plant to East-

ern as planned

Industry sources suggested that an MMC in-

quiry would have to be wid-

ened to include all

generators, damaging the

Government's July privat

City sources agreed last night that a referral would kill the nuclear sell-off or

wipe millions off its value

One analyst said: "They have got the Government by the testicles on this."

PowerGen directors are

seek a judicial review of Mr

isation of nuclear power.

the Bank of England, Eddie George, on May 8, if gross-domestic-product figures for the first three months of the year out on Monday — are

Although City analysts noted that the sales figures continued to show an increase, the alowdown in the rate of improvement — combined with evidence of a stagnating manufacturing sector
— made an interest rate cut

Treasury officials said the picking up. A spokesman cutting, with sales up 1 per noted that sales between Jan-cent between February and

period last year. "These figures confirm the upwards trend," he said. The Treasury pointed to the pattern of spending, which shows people more prepared to buy expensive items, as evidence

of growing optimism.
Sales of household goods
rose 1.1 per cent in last

month, according to the Office for National Statistics, compared with a rise of 0.1 per cent in supermarket sales volumes. Clothing and footcustom after vigorous price-

to feel that it has little to

lose from an MMC inquiry,

given that the panel cleared

the generators' takeovers.

only to be overraled by Mr

posal of generating plant and Mr Lang's decision to

block the takeovers were not connected in any way. A snokesman said: "If

they wish to challenge (the

disposal), it is a matter for

Eastern Group's execu-

vaney said that he could see

no reason why the disposal

should not proceed. He said that disposal of the plant

was an "absolute require-ment" by the industry

the industry regulator."

The DTI said that the dis-

Sterling qualities brought to fore



Edited by Mark Milner

Supplies the pound is acting out of character. Despite historically low interest rates, it is taking off - yesterday putting on a pfennig against the German mark to close at over 2.31. Few pundits expect sterling to

In part, the Bundesbank is the cause. The German au-thorities have seen the im-pact of a strong mark on the nation's industry and jobless rates, and are taking action. Buba officials now sound as though they are making every effort to talk down the mark. and last week's half-point cut in German rates came after figures showed M3 — the wor-

shipped money supply mea-

snipped money slipply measure—soaring.
But it is possible that a more fundamental reassesament of the value of the pound is taking place on dealing floors. After sterling's ejection from the exchange rate mechanism in 1992, altreast everything want as averthing want as averything want as averything want as averything want as a very thing want most everything went as expected: strong exports and cheap money. Except for one crucial, almost universal, prediction — that the gains would be frittered away in spiralling wage demands and soaring inflation.

In fact, the unthinkable happened. Britain became

more competitive — and didn't waste it. Inflation is well below 3 per cent, pro-

ducer prices are stagnant.
All of which makes the UK currency look like a buy and the markets have, albeit belatedly, cottoned on Sterdown the argument against base rate cuts — cited often by the Bank of England that a week currency meens

imported price pressures. For once, Britain could be facing a combination of the pound on the way up and in-terest rates on the way down. Now that makes a change.

Paying no heed

N TERMS of executive pay, British Gas is the company we all love to hate. It was one of the foremost examples in ministers' minds when the Greenbury committee was established last year to help dig the Government out of a hole over the executive bonanza which had become a hallmark

of the privatised utilities. Greenbury was, in the event, less harsh on the privatised companies than many had expected. But the report made it quite clear that the reward structures for executives which were already in place should be thoroughly reviewed, voluntarily ad-justed and discussed with shareholders at the first available annual meeting.

line with "best corporate governance practice", clearly plans to do the same this time

True, some changes have been made but it is worth remembering that when Brit-ish Gas decided last year to award its boardroom an averwas justified as necessary to retain executives of interna-tional calibre. Cedric Brown was given a 70 per cent rise because he was the "right man" to lead a large and com-

man" to lead a large and complex company.
Just one year later, four executives, including Mr Brown, will have left the group, taking with them payoffs of about £545,000. In addition, the company has taken the unusual step of paying executives £100,000 to join the group.

the group.

Most of this was in place before Greenbury began its investigations and it may, as British Gas argues, all be within the spirit of the Greenbury and them of the greenbury and them of the greenbury. bury code and therefore not worthy of being put to a shareholder vote.

Such a view makes a mockery of Greenbury. The com-pany, and other privatised utilities, should think again.

Tax penalty

OHN Major must feel like a football manager star-ing relegation in the face. Teams heading for the drop are always the ones that most consistently fail to get it. Star players are injured or suspended at crucial times, the team hits the woodwork more often than the back of the net. Refereeing decisions go the

wrong way. Yesterday the Appeal Court handed down a ruling whose nearest sporting equivalent would be a referee who overcial decision. It decided that, contrary to lower court rulings, Customs and Excise had been wrong to charge VAT or

'interest-free credit deals' Just how much money the Treasury will have to hand back is not clear. Customs & Excise reckons estimates of 25 billion were "very much on the high side" but bet it would still run to billions.

There could be even worse news in the pipeline. Other pending tax judgments could add substantially to the amount of money the Trea-sury may have to hand back. For the Government the

cause for concern is not so much that the ruling has gone against the Revenue. It can al-ways find other ways of rais-

The damage sustained in the Appeal Court yesterday is that the ruling could prove an important factor in preventing the Chancellor delivering the tax cuts many of his back benchers — any hopes of cheaper borrowing notwith-standing — believe essential for the Conservatives to have any chance of winning the

tears for the Tories. A Gov-ernment's prospects of reelection should hinge on mo than the way in which VAT British Gas, which sat out has been collected on interest-last year's agm controversy free credit deals over the past by maintaining that it was in 23 years.

Ford said that the cost of

replacing the switches, which may short-circuit and catch

to be about \$100 per vehicle.
It added, however, that the

actual cost could be as little as \$500 million because some

of the cars involved may no longer be on the road and

some customers may opt not to bring in their cars.

Ford expects to pay for the recall out of reserves set aside

for unexpected events. "We

material impact on earn-

ings," said Jon Harmon, a Ford official.

The ignition switches were made by an outside supplier — United Technologies. Ford said it had not yet decided

whether to seek recompense from the supplier, which will supply the modified switches.

Warburg in shares sale scrutiny

Paul Murphy and lan King

ONTROVERSY last night surrounded the £2.1 billion Ren-tokil hid for BET on tokil bid for BET on the eve of its closing deadline as the Takeover Panel attempted to decide whether one of the predator's key fi-nancial advisers, SBC Warburg, had broken market rules over a "backdoor" share

Rentokil, the pest control and security group, is ex-pected to clinch control of BET's industrial services empire when the votes are counted today. But the bid target was still attempting to rule invalid a 27 per cent block of its own shares on the grounds that they were traded by SBC Warburg. BET appealed for the Take-

g - ya labangata

Att-tudes

over Panel to mount a full tovestigation on the grounds that SBC Warburg was pre-vented in dealing in any com-pany with which it is involved as a financial advisor.

The share stake was subsequently bought back by Rentokil itself as part of a market "raid" on the bid target which captured nearly 7 per which target which captured nearly 7 per per state of the bid target which captured nearly 7 per state of the bid target which captured nearly 7 per state of the bid target with the bid target with the bid target target and the bid target target and target cent of its shares in a single day's trading.
The financial advisers Bar-The financial advisers Bar-ings insisted that the disputed deal, which involved the sale of 27 million BET shares con-trolled by SBC Warburg, breached Rule 38 of the "Yel-low Book" code on contested

ket maker connected with an offeror or the offeree company (during a take-over bid) must not carry out any deal-ings with the purpose of as-sisting the offeror or the offeree company as the case may be."

SBC Warburg is believed to have sold the share stake books within the proprietary trading operation. This is kept strictly separate from the division dealing with the Rentokil takeover bid by "Chinese walls". SBC Warburg last night refused to make any comment.
The disputed transaction

involves a market "raid" on BET shares by Rentokil on April 23. Retailpac, a subsid-iary of Rentokil, bought a total of nearly 65 million BET shares, representing around 6.7 per cent of the entire com-pany. It is understood that around 32 million of these came from two institutions, PDFM and Sun Life. But a further 27 million were sold by SBC Warburg Market Makers to Salomon Brothers. The US investment bank then sold 24 million shares back through Rentokil's own broker, Hoare Govett to Re-tailpac BET pointed out that despite the "backdoor" share deal. Rentoldl publicly said that the raid had been carried out "In response to ap-proaches received from BET

BET's advisers, Barings

The row follows what Mr Wallis called the Govern-ment's "incomprehensible" to refer PowerGen to the has written to Mr Lang, expressing his anger. Job with a big future

Don't be fooled by the quiet start,

Dan Atkingon tells tunnel debt manager

ASY Street on £35,000 a year beckoned yester day for anyone with smattering of French and some experience of foreigncurrency borrowing — Euro-tunnel is advertising for a

This should be a Pullman-class cushy billet, not because the Channel train operator does not have any debts (it has £8 billion-worth) but because it hasn't paid a sou in interest since last September. The lucky candidate ought, in theory, to have little to do in the way of management, freeing him to enjoy the staff benefits: car allowance, canteen, 25 days' leave, health care, pension scheme, sports and social club, and, of course, subsidised cross-Channel travel on Le Shuttle. But the small print of yes-terday's advertisement made

clear it wouldn't be all Shut-tling. Euroteenel's long-suf-

fering creditors will expect countering the Japanese and repayments to resume at other international lenders to some point, and the job de which Eurotunnel owes the that the appointee will have to play "a key part" in "implementation of the future borrowing structure".

Should he shine in this rôle,

he will have proved a bargain appointment. The "c. £35,000" salary on offer represents approximately 26 minutes worth of Eurotumel's £2 million-a-day interest bill. How-



the cost of the Trident missile programme.
Some of these benefactors

piled willingly into the tunnel during the frenetic 1980s, and manager may be chilly. Others were bullied into it by the Bank of England, and their attitude towards him will probably be sub-zero. tisement began, however, on an upbeat note: "Eurotunnel ... is now market leader on the Calais cross-Channel routes." Splendid. Then: "The

routes." Spiencid. Then: "The group is renegotiating its £8 billion debt." Mm-mm. "Group treasury operates from Canary Wharf but will relocate to Folkestone." No doubt this greater proximity to Eurotunnei's Gallic coowners explains: "A working knowledge of French would knowledge of French would be an important advantage."
Should the pressure of the job prove fatal, a death-in-serever, the previous debt man-ager, Steve Cupit, is hale and hearty and has just been

NatWest Bank in third run-in with regulators

Dan Atkinson

NATWEST suffered its third run-in with City regulators in less than a year when Imro fined the bank £75,000 for administrative failures relating to personal

equity plans (PEPs).

None of NatWest's 70,000odd PEPs customers suffered
any loss from breaches of the fund management supervi-sor's rules between Novem-ber 1991 and February 1995. NatWest said the size and scope of its business helped explain the regulatory

Last year Roger Nagioff, former head of proprietary trading at NatWest Securi-ties, was removed by the Se-curities and Futures Authority from its register, for trading on confidential information. He has since been reinstated by NatWest. The SFA last month moved against Geoffrey Glazebrook,

former head of market-mak-ing in European equities at NatWest Securities, for concealing losses. The bank said its losses were "minimal".

Fire-prone switch forces Ford to recall 8.7m vehicles way Traffic Safety Adminis

Mark Tran in New York

ORD Motor Company faces a bill of up to \$870 million (£576 million) as America's second-largest car maker moves to replace ignition switches in 8.7 million cars and trucks. It falls just below year's re-

call of 8.8 million cars, caused by defective seat belts manufactured by the Japanese com-pany Takata, according to Washington safety officials. In all, Ford is recalling about one-third of the 26 mil-

lion cars it built between 1983 and 1993. The company said only a "very small number" of the vehicles were likely to have faulty ignition switches. The company is facing eight class-action lawsuits

Ford's move follows an investigation begun in November 1994 by the National High-

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ICI expects to paint its profits out of a corner

Roger Cowe

HEMICAL giant ICI yesterday tried to play down poor first quarter results by predicting that the industry's cycle was already on the rise

company's optimism failed to impress investors, who drove down the share price by 28p to 926p, reversing gains on the previous day.

"Although this year's profitability began in line with 1995, March did not match

last year when the chemical industry enjoyed particularly robust demand and firmer prices," said Sir Ronnie Ham-

He reported first quarter pre-tax profit of £202 million, had a flat quarter and posted a trading profit of £14 million. The industry has been beset by poor consumer confidence parison was made worse by and bad weather in the strong figures last time from the cyclical upturn of the first half of 1995, but City analysts were still disappointed at the figures and at the continued ence of a plan to boost the share price with a buy-back. Finance director Alan Spall

seriously considered. "The whole thing was a storm in a tea cup," he said. "It was one of a series of op-tions. We continue to look at a series of options."

dismissed the idea of a buy-

back, although it has been

He added that the group was still interested in further acquisitions, on the lines of the additions made this year to its paint empire. And he was optimistic about the rest

"We are taking a view that the second half of the year will feel a lot more warm in terms of levels of trading activity, particularly in markets closer to the consumer. "All the evidence is that

petrochemicals prices have bottomed out and started to firm again. We are in the

Ibstock builds

brick empire

sumer confidence in the UK and in parts of Europe will pick up. We are quite confideliver in the second half."
Mr Spall said ICI expects chemical growth in developed countries to be about 2 per-cent in 1996, compared to 3

ICI sales rose by 4 per cent in the quarter to £2.6 billion. This was due to higher prices for some products, a sales boost from acquisitions and beneficial currency effects.

The volume of sales fell however. Volumes dropped 9 per cent in Europe and 3 per

cent in North and South America. In Asia and the UK The firm's paints division

United States In the firm's explosives arm, trading profit dropped to 52 million from 511 million mainly due to difficult markets and legal problems in the US, where one business was fined for the pricing policy of

its previous owners. ICI's results come amid falling earnings from other world chemical makers. Du-Pont yesterday said firstquarter earnings fell 6.8 per cent to \$899 million (£595 million). The biggest US chemical maker, it said revenue rose 2.8 per cent to \$11.1 billion

ICI said it was continuing a cost-cutting program started several years ago and had reduced staffing levels by 300. A year ago, it said plans were to deliver £400 million in profit improvement by the end of 1997.

David Ingles, analyst at HSBC James Capel, cut his 1996 profit forecast to £900 million from £950 million, and his 1997 estimate to £1.050 million from £1,150 million. Mr Ingles retained his "sell"



Fighting tobacco-related lawsuits costs BAT £38m

BSTOCK ushered in a furthe building materials industry yesterday when it be-came Britain's biggest brick maker and said it was looking low end of analysts' forecasts

in June, has agreed to buy £160 million. It gives fbstock more than a third of the UK market, but the company said the deal would be called off if referred to the Monopolies for-three rights issue at 55p a

Ian Maclellan, the chief executive, said the two busi- Michael Foster, an analyst at nesses were similar and some plant closures could be expected over the next two to three years. There would not be wholesale job losses in the cutting his 1996 profit foreshort term and rationalisa-tion of brickworks would from £27 million to £20 milhave happened even without

Ibstock has 20 factories in the UK compared with Red-land's 17 and the groups have about 1,500 staff each. The most significant manufactur-

Midlands

Colin Hope, Ibstock's chair man, underlined the need to ther round of job cuts in drive down costs by issuing a profit warning. He said profits had bounced 83 per cent to \$26.1 million in 1995 - the for large cost savings.

The group, which bought rent year would see "considerably lower" profits and blamed a combination of slow demand for building products, bad weather in the north-east United States, and falling pulp prices.

Ibstock is to launch a two share to raise £100 million to help finance the acquisition. Greig, Middleton & Co, said: "The acquisition makes stralion and recommending that

the shares be sold.

AT Industries, the B tobacco and financial services group, spent almost \$80 million (£38 million) fighting tobaccorelated legal cases last year, it was disclosed yesterday. Addressing BAT's annual

meeting, chairman Lord Cairns said BAT had spent \$500 million on litigation last year, of which about 90 r cent was related to BAT's financial services

But he said BAT had made no specific provisions in respect of the 174 co-related cases it is currently fighting.

Responding to a question from Pamela Furness, chief executive of the anti-smoking group ASH, Lord Cairns said the only provisions BAT had made related to its Farmers Insurance subsid iary in America.

Ms Furness, who claims BAT's decision to continue fighting various lawsuits across the United States

will eventually hit its abil- | "They claim that smoking ity to pay dividends, has called for BAT shareholders to "abandon the sinking

But Lord Cairns insisted that where BAT had received "a balanced hear-ing" it had won the argu-ment, and promised share-holders that BAT would stand firm against future

claims. BAT's shares, like those of other tobacco companies, have been under pressure since the American group, Liggett's recent decision to seek settlement in a num-

ber of cases it is fighting. Earlier, Lord Cairns unleashed an ontspoken attack on the anti-tobacco lobby, accusing it of creat-ing "an atmosphere of in-tolerance" towards

Accusing anti-smoking groups of spreading "scare stories" about passive smoking, he said they had "conjured up elaborate conspiracies" about addiction, and had even changed the definition of addiction. He told shareholders:

and other hard drugs. But then they also equate the pleasures gained from caf-feine in coffee with cocaine. If you drink coffee every morning you are probably addicted under this new

definition. "It is to protect non-smokers that smokers have been driven out of their offices and into the freezing and sweltering streets. Lord Cairns gave warn-ing that BAT did not expect to match the level of

growth it achieved in 1995, blaming competitive condi-tions in insurer Eagle Star's market as a particu-lar factor. BAT shares fell 10p to 501p on the state-

Chief executive Martin Broughton said Allied Dun-bar and Eagle Star were having to find new ways of selling its products on the high street, following the merger trend among build-ing societies and banks in recent months. He said BAT had no plans to buy a building society.

British Gas draws fire

RITISH Gas is heading for another showdown with shareholders at its annual meeting next week after a decision by the consultancy group. Pirc, to recom-mend that investors should vote against the board on a raft of vital resolutions.

Pire says that corporate overnance worries mean hareholders should veto the edoption of the accounts, vote against the appointment of four directors and oppose the reappointment of the auditors, KPMG.

The company beat off a shareholder revolt over boardroom pay at last year's annual meeting, but only after an intense campaign to rally support from its institu-

Already, this year, rela-tions between the group and its investors have been tested by a move from Noel Fal-coner, the veteran small shareholder campaigner, to force British Gas to acco resolution that he should be

Pirc's voting advice looks set to raise the temperature of the meeting further. The consultancy organisa tion focuses on executive remuneration, which it says does not reflect the best prac-

tice recommended by the Greenbury committee. It argues that boardroom pay rises averaging 7 per cent, on top of last year's 45 per cent average increase, do not indicate that the remuneration committee has been "sensitive" to pay and condi-tions elsewhere in the com-pany, as Greenbury

Pire also objects to the pay-ment of "golden hellos" of £100,000 as well as two-year contracts to executive directors Stephen Brandon and

It argues that British Gas should not give the outgoing chief executive. Cedric Brown, a chauffeur-driven car for his duties as president of the Institute of Gas

Dick Giordano should also hand over the chairmanship to a senior non-executive di-rector when he assumes the role of chief executive ahead of the company's split into two organisations, Pire says.

• Jeff Phillips, who resigned last September after six months as finance director of Coats Viyelia, received com-pensation of £262,000 on top of

297,000 salary.

The group's annual report says the remuneration comis as addictive as cocaine | mittee "considered the appropriate amount" but does not explain how it arrived at its conclusions.
Another director who

resigned last March will continue to receive his salary until the end of this year.

Coats is facing flerce criti-cism for its decision to close the Rainhill shirt factory on Merseyside.

News in brief

Union fears 10,000 Lloyds TSB job cuts

LLOYDS TSB announced yesterday it was to axe 500 jobs in Bristol and Birmingham in a move to streamline operations. A spokeswoman said the bank, which was formed by a merger last December, needed only one administration centre and the existing TSB centre in Birmingham would close in 1997 The spokeswoman said every effort would be made to avoid

omplusory redundancies. The banking union Butustud the complusory redundancies. The banking union Butustud the cuts were just the start and that the merger could eventually cost 10,000 jobs around the country. — Pauling Springett

Halifax buys more agencies

BRITAIN'S biggest mortgage lender, the Halifax, which inst year lost £12.3 million through its estate agency network, is to buy (5) more branches from the Alliance & Leicester. The A&L, which plane is fact of the fact of t plans to float on the stock market early next year, had already announced its intention to dispose of its estate agency business

which lost \$4.9 million last year.

The Haiffax will boost its 610 loss-making estate agencies chain with the acquisition of 27 A&L branches on the south coast and six with the acquisition of 27 A&L branches on the south coast and six with the acquisition of 27 A&L branches on the south coast and six with the remain branches in Leicester. The A&L is negotiating to sell the remain ing half of its network to other financial institutions. About 10 of the 180 staff employed in A&L's branches will be made redundant - Tereso Hunter

Three bailed on charges

THREE men have been charged in connection with a scheme to raise funding for property development in Orlando, Florida. Their appearance before City of London magistrates followed investigations by the Bank of England.

Peter Lennon, 53, of Bournemouth, is charged with offences under the Banking Act and the Forgery & Counterfeiting Act, while two former directors of Homesafe (Insurance Consultants), also known as Charlesworth Hyans Associates — Roger Charlesworth, 50, and Paul Hyans, 33, both of Southampton — were charged under the Banking Act. Mr Charlesworth is charged also under the Forgery & Counterfeiting Act. All have been granted bail. — Dan Atkinson

Trafalgar loses Thai contract

TRAFALGAR House has lost a \$650 million (£433 million) contract in Thailand to German competition despite the signing of a memorandum of understanding for the project witnessed by John Major and the Thai premier Banharn Silpa-archa in February. The project, to build an iron and steel complex, has gone to the Mannesman group.

TSSI, the client company, said a key reason why talks with

Trafalgar — now owned by the Norwegian Kvaerner group — had failed was that Trafalgar had raised its price twice since the letter of intent was signed. A spokesman said that Mannesmann's plan would provide a bigger plant capacity that would help TSSI's cashflow. — Tony May

Vickers pursues Saudi deals

VICKERS chief executive Sir Colin Chandler yesterday played down the controversy surrounding Saudi dissident Mohammed al-Mas'ari and its possible effects on export orders to Saudi Arabia, particularly for the company's Challenger 2 battletanks. Speaking at the company's annual meeting in London, Sir Colin described the Government's decision last week to rescribed. deportation order against al-Mas'ari as a "minor setback".

Vickers, together with French defence group Glat, is currently in talks with the Saudi authorities for an order for 150 battletanks. The order could be worth in excess of £600 million to Vickers if its Challenger 2 tank is preferred over the rival French LeClerk model. A decision is due sometime next year. — Extel

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P&O gives Tories £100,000

THE shipping and property group, P&O, under growing City pressure to improve its lackinstre performance which saw a 6 percent drop in profits last year, has maintained its position as one of the largest corporate supporters of the Conservative Party, with a contribution of £100,000. P&O, whose chairman, Lord Sterling, is a business adviser to the Government, remains second only to Hanson in terms of company contributions to the Conservatives

Tory coffers were also swelled by £25,000 last year from King-fisher which owns Woolworths, B&Q and Comet. The group is, however, one of the few which seeks the backing of shareholders for a political donation.—Lisa Buckingham

Water concerns 'unfounded'

SOUTH West Water said yesterday that concerns about supply interruptions and pollution incidents "had proved to be unfounded", although a report by the industry watchdog Ofwat report had identified shortfalls in the company's operations. "We will respond positively to this report which is helpful in underlining both satisfactory achievement in some areas and shortfalls in others." The investigation, which began in November 1995, cov-ered six areas: drinking water compliance, supply interruptions, pollution incidents, sewer flooding, sawage treatment works improvements and bathing waters. — Reuter

Investor puts spoke in Unipart's wheel

OUTLOOK/Rising share price tempts profit-takers to sell, writes **Chris Barrie**

maker and distributor, is often cited by both main political parties as a model company with an enticing stakeholder philosophy car company Rover 19 per matched by entrepreneurial cent. The stakes have shifted ing stakeholder philosophy

Yesterday the former British Leyland subsidiary, now the institutions held 54 per one of Britain's biggest private companies, turned in a the management and employmodel set of results for the ees 22 per cent.
This is not the first time this despite some of the most competitive trading conditions seen in the European motor industry.

£864 million. Chief executive ment was made despite a constrained market and slowerthan expected recovery in the expense of investment. car and truck markets.

more surprising, therefore, that one institutional shareholder wants to sell part of its stake in the group. The unnamed institution and Unipart executives are understood to be in talks about how NIPART, the car parts maker and distributor.

Institutional investors hold 33 per cent of Unipart's equity, management and employees 48 per cent, and the considerably since the group was bought out in 1987 when

that Mr Neill has faced investors who want to realise gains from the company's growth.
The value of Unipart shares Profits at the Oxford-based group increased 12.8 per cent to £32.6 million on sales the chief executive used a buy-11.6 per cent higher at back scheme to allow institutional investors to sell some of John Neill said exports had their shares, thereby avoiding risen and substantial invest a flotation which would have forced Unipart to give divi-

cent, Rover 24 per cent, and

News that another share. The pay-out is good news Unipart and its extensive on. Neill could do without.

The results make it all the holder now wants to sell part | for the shareholders among one surprising, therefore, hat one institutional share ably close on last year's un. Their share of the dividend is certainty when Rover put pressure on Mr Neill and his

does not already own.

Mr Neill managed to repel
the Rover approach, his supporters arguing that Unipart
needed its existing share ployee involvement which has enabled the company to lift productivity — by 30 per cent this year in some factorist the salary and bonus last year were slightly up on 1994's £490.000, although final Far East

restiessness, he says Unipart must be able to take the "long view" in its investment poli cies if it is to succeed.

The track record is impres-sive. Profits have more than doubled in four years on turnover up by more than half in the same period. Dividends have also shot up, from dends a higher priority at the | £2 million in 1991 to £6.5 million last year.

about £1.87 million, or more than £500 each on average fellow directors to accept an offer of about £170 million for the 80 per cent of the equity it my's share option scheme of two years ago when options were granted at a 15 per cent discount to the prevailing value of £1.35, provided shares were also bought at

of Unipart's annual report. LTHOUGH Mr Neill is the company Mr Neill's share reluctant to discuss the of the dividend pay-out is latest spell of investor £390,000. The chief executive also exercised options on

shares worth £195 000 Stressing that he has choen to keep all his shares, Mr Neill delivered a trenchant defence of the Conservative Party's record in office and indicated that the company is likely to make its usual

site training facilities, Mr Neill urged Labour to spell out its policies before the election. Otherwise business would regard Tony Blair's policy announcements as But Mr Nell is likely to be focusing more on the car and

tion in the year ahead. Fore-casting that chronic overcapacity will result in restructuring of "train smash" proportions, he said parts companies had to lift. quality standards further. raise productivity more and be prepared to open their actempt to foster genuine part-nership and mutually healthy profit margins.

Although he does not say it Unipart must also cut its dependence on Rover in case the company chooses not to renew its contract when it expires in 2002. Growth in mobile telecome

more overseas business and contracts to handle parts for non-automotive customers are all likely to be high on the management agenda. Changes to the shareholding structure Although at least one shadow minister has visited will be a distraction that Mr

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CRUSS DELLOHT (19) D ELEVER (19) D EL *** TRANSPORT OF T _Mr Housely (a) w _D Sinyente _W Houseles _T-Junks _A Tannely (2) w _A P McGoy _Mr J L Ligarolly _D Salter (5) _T Dateonabe (4) SSG-40 THE ELECTRIC CONTROL (190) 109 J Control Contro O COMMENST MUFFIELD MOSPITAL HARDSCAP CRASK to SORISA-CHARMERS GATE (323) June V Wilstons 13-11-11 [-11] COURT COURT MELON' (277) [CD) [CP] P Nichols 3-11-11 [-11] COURT COURT MELON' (277) [CD) [CP] P Nichols 3-11-12 [SESSE METHAL TAMES (728) (29) [GP] P Nichols 3-11-14 [SESSE METHAL TAMES (728) (29) [GP] P Nichols 13-11-14 [SESSE METHAL TAMES (728) [GP] NICHOLS 13-11-14 [SESSE METHAL TAMES (377) [GP] N THOSEN-DEVICE 10-11-14 [SESSE METHAL GOING (377) [GP] N THOSEN-DEVICE 10-11-14 [SESSE METHAL GOING (377) [GP] N THOSEN-DEVICE 10-11-14 [SESSE METHAL TAMES (377) [GP] METHAL DEVICES (319) [GP] METHAL GENERAL TAMES (317) [GR SERIES METHAL SESSE (319) [GP] N THOSEN [GP] [GP] N THOSEN . R'Denis ...A.P. BloCay + ...I.A. MoCarthy + ...O Yarmay (2) ...Br R White (7) + ...C Handle ...Mr Henley (8) + ...D. Gallanter

1-20th STOMER THAN (\$00 (87) P Nicholis 5-11-5
4 VALIANT (144) T POSISE 5-11-6
250 COMER PARKET NOW (87) R FIRST 6-11-1
U POWINGE MORRETY (25) G PROMUT 6-11-1
D TANSMITT TORSE (20) JAMES POSISE 5-11-1
3 BLASTED PSE O TROUBS 4-11-1 D Port (3) + D Bridgeste. D Dylen P LOGIE (37) D Georgio 4-11-0 20 SOLATION (445) M Pipe 4-11-0 (4) PROPERTY PROPERTY IN PRO TUPENT'S PRESCRES H Hornes 4-10-9 Stated, 12-1 Come Dailes Villa-Me. 7-4 Soleton, 2-1 Secret Rus, 4-1 Markey, Values, 10-1 Shased, 12-1 Come Dailes Villa-Me. 01-0302 WYHERIO (20) T Frient 5-11-5
-50755 STORM WIN (10) T Frient 5-11-5
-50755 STORM WIN (10) T Frient 5-11-5
-50755 STORM WIN (10) T STORM R T-11-1
-5000 STATUTE CHARCE (10) R STORM R STORM T-10-0
-5000 STATUTE CHARCE (10) STORM T-1 Estate: 5.25 Strathtore Dream. LUDLOW: 5.45 Prue's Problem; 7.45 Haye Buster: 8.15 Riverbank Rose, PERTH: 4.30 White Dinnond, SANDOWN: 4.10 Cypress Avenue, TAUNTON: 5.30 awbuster, 6.30 Majboor Yafooz, 7.30 Logie.

Racing

Bosra Sham injury casts shadow over Guineas

Chris Hawkins

OSRA SHAM, hot favourite for the 1,000 Guineas, has had a setback although Henry Cecil, her trainer, is playing down the seriousness of the injury. "She's bruised a foot but hopefully will be all right in a couple of days." he said. "She's slightly lame on her near-fore but her chance of running in the Guineas in ten days time should not be

Bookmaker reaction has been minimal and Hill's keep Bosra Sham at 2-5 followed by Bint Salsabil at 9-2 and Bint Shadayid at 7-1. News that John Reid would ride Dance Sequence has prompted some backing for this Michael Stoute filly who is now 16-1

However, it is always dis-quieting to bear of an injury before a big race and if Bosra Sham does not recover quickly time will be against her. Clear bruised a foot a month before the Dubai World Cup and had to rested for 11 days but that still left Bill Mott time to get him ready. Cecil's schedule is a lot

tighter.
Take Bosra Sham out of the race and it becomes very much a second division affair. Only those with decent antepost prices about some of the others will be hoping she does

Today's main feature race is the group two Sandown Mile and a very trappy affair it looks. There is hardly more than 3lb or 4lb between most of the field, although Decorated Hero and Autumn Af-Soviet Line, the mount of

Carlisle

2.45 SAGERRUSH ROLLER (New)

2.10 puzzad nadšil stakim 270 m ca,244

開T END JOY A A EN

The Jan S. Balt To Ris ?

2.45 pasting classics structs given the cases 44. DE-VERRS CURREN (12) 7 (of 4-8-4 - Laiet I. (d) (et) Fellor Helioriel Az - El -8- Novel A. (d) (et) Neare Chorn (12) - El -8- Novel A. (d) (et) Neare (12)

1130-29 PROGUE BELGE (13) (D) A Jurvis 4-8-13 ...
20055 GENERAL FOUR (20) Nr. L. Subbs 4-8-7 (2005-6 URDMERL RING (20) Nr. L. Subbs 4-8-7 (2005-6 URDMERL RING (20) (20) E Alatin 8-8-5 (200-6) TEAMBOND (11) (D) J Bethell 4-8-5 ...
2005-0 SALLYORRALLY (18) W SONT (4-8) ...
200- THERMENWOOD (350) N Chargerinia 4-8-

D GOLDBI EARLE HAMDICAP 198 EA,713
20003- SLETS SETURE (197) A larve 4-10-0
2310-15 BROAT WINK (195) (7) D Nichols 4-5-11
4250-0 PERCY WANT (195) (7) D Nichols 4-5-11
4250-0 PERCY WANT (195) (8) U Johnson 45500-0 BOLD ARROWSHIT (81) (8) W Countryin
71500-1 BROTSH (197) (9) W When 4-5-0
10001-0 BEST OF ALL (195) (9) J Broy 4-5-1
7140-0 SERALA (19) (9) J D Nich 3-5-1
7148-2 1772 ACADEMIC (29) Mrs J Renetley 4-5-1
7148-2 1772 ACADEMIC (29) Mrs J Renetley 4-5-1
2001-1 BRAIN WERDICT (10) (60) Denys Small
1001-1 BRAIN WERDICT (10) (60) Denys Small

TOP FORM TIPS: H's Assidanic & Sue's Roture 7, Highl Wink &

O MICHAEL MANDICAP 270 IN SE ENJOYE

0400-1 MICHAEL (16) J Dunlop 9-7

052-95 STX CLEMES (26) J Fordered 8-11

042-12 JACKSON PARK (26) (37 T Exemply 8-36

50-40 WITH THE WIND (20) M 948 4-4

000-137 SHIDE PERMODES (16) (35 S Wilston 8-4

2000-137 SHIDE SHIP SHIP SHIP (16) A JANUAR 1-6

1000-137 SHIP SHIP SHIP SHIP SHIP SHIP

1000-137 SHIP SHIP SHIP SHIP

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1000-137 SHIP

505-0 BARRAYAS (18) M Cannecho 8-1 00-12 90-00-POTERI-RAMBER (11) B Elleon 8-1 100-0 POMORER (18) P Calver 7-13 764 PARRAMA JYM (11) M Johnston 7-12 00-00 GENERAL GLOW (18) N Byrrsh 7-10 00-00 GENERAL GLOW (18) N Byrrsh 7-10 0-505 ORDANNED (16) E Alsco 7-10

etting: 7-4 kishtadi, 9-2 Juskson Park, 6-1 Ser Cleries Sego Perksus. 20-1 lata Approvel, Go Vrien The Wind

4.20 SPARROW HAWK MAIDER STAKES JTG TH. 41 CLUSS

2 ANNA SOLEEL (22) M Change P-8 LALLANS M Johnson 9-0 5-2 INCHEAR (18) L Curren B-0 3 NORDEC HERRO (12) A Junes 9-0

CLASSIC COLLEGE S ##Bums B-9 CLASSIC COLLEGE S ##Bums B-9 C- OCLOGRAM SOLIND (179) T Easter D TROOKA (18) J Berry B-8

Bettings 4-5 Migray, 5-1 Lations, 6-1 Anna Soled, 10-1 North: Hers

25000- 300 MINNESON (174) (D) Mrs M Hereloy 000-305 MARATO (4) (D) (NF) Mrs J Pansades II-

050-534 PETINGO (2) (D) (BP) N Smith 8-8-12 48-813 JUGSAW BOY (BB) (D) (BP) P Marphy (DD)-00 URCH YLOW (16) N Byron 5-8-9 1000-0 DENESSES (16) (C) Deny Smith 1 1000-0 DENESSES (16) (C) Deny Smith 1

ORSON-O MINISTE MANIOR (14) E Alabo 5-8-3 68300 ARIAD ARRESTOCINC (17) (0) R HOSIN 180480 - SARAZZO CREGO 4 SHROMONIO 57-10 80-003 LAMRICONIANI (14) (0) J E ym 7-7-9-0 000-00 STRAYNTONIE DRIENE (11) (MS L P 000-08 BOWCLEFFE MANIOLI (11) D Cheptro

to Touch 7. Too Too Too S

M Tipes Buildedi S. Co-Co-Po

700 FORM TSPS: Senatorals Heller S. Prand Susses 7, Fly

3.15 COLDEN EAGLE HANDICAT IN CAPITS

MILL End Boy

BLAZDIG CASTLE W Termer S-7: 3 ECT TO BIO (5) Nes J Parredon (48ANTE TRIBUS E Weymork S-8: 1800 H SPRIETET Exalency S-8: 2 JBS JAB (6) D Nicholds S-8:

For Life over six furlongs at Newmarket last week, while First Island and Gabr fin-ished third and fourth respectively behind Luso at the ame meeting.

Gabr, who raced in Dubai and the States last season, winning twice, is best at a mile and may have found last week's nine furlongs a shade

week's nine furions a shade too far.

Nwaamis, after a lengthy lay off, was beaten by First Island at Doncaster on the opening day of the season and is open to improvement, but he has yet to live-up to his resultation. reputation. My selection is Inzar

(8.40), a tough colt who im-proved throughout last sea-son and finished third in the group one Prix de la Foret on his final outing. He had Myself behind then. confirming the superiority he had shown over this filly earlier at Goodwood. He has not won over a mile but ran last

he a problem. Regal Archive (2.35), from Peter Chapple-Hyam's inform stable, gets the vote in the Tudor Conditions Stakes even though this highly rated colt beat little on his debut at Kempton and took plenty of

That was over seven furlongs and he came through very late suggesting that an extra furlong or so is

essential for him The one he has to best on form (admittedly last season's) is Al Abraq who fin-ished sixth to Rio Duvida in the 30-runner Taftersalls Houghton Stakes.

The Athlone Handicap is one of the best betting events on the card and Pengamon (3.05) should not be far away judged on his neck second to Welton Arsenal when backed Pat Eddery, was sharpened Welton Arsenal up with a run behind Passion from 25-1 to 7-1.

Aint Grants 5 J Watter 5 F Lynch (5) 10 D MoKeows 5

.K Duriny 10 .K Pathon 12 .K Pinton 5 .M Penton 9 .J Tath 15 .J Custoff 2 .P Rebisson

13**
1. Cherpook 5
M Kennedy 1
M Yorley (3) 11
7 Williams 7
D Wright (3) 6
M Conticts 14

4.20 Mg/mi

5.55 Burnin



Race against time . . . Bosra Sham, odds-on for the 1,000 Guineas, has ten days to recover

Perth (N.H.)

4.50 Belly's Box 2.55 Jo

Gologe Good to self, or Departus littaliure. 2.20 Helitown property company horize Humble 440 2m 1 topic C2,776 15(1) EXECUTIVE DISSOR (30) (0) Mrs M Reselvy 11-7 4116 MARCHANT MING (20) (0) M Harmond 11-7 Upo Prints AFE (47) 7 Oper 15-12 084 TXYPM (30) M Harmond 10-7 lose 5-11 Espansivo Design, 5-4 Marchani Ming, 5-1 Trych, 20-1 First Sile 2.55 CAMPRILL MATH CONDITIONAL JUCKSTYP SELL HOAD HOLE IN 41 11 by 40 ELL HOAD #2-215 RALLEGED (\$2) (BF) P Monistin 7-12-0 P-03(24 JOHOVE (16) Mrs. M Perviey 7-17-10 .

767-50P PARAMETER COUNTY (105) 1 Barriey 15-0-17-0-51FW- PARAMETER COUNTY (105) Barriey 15-10-10
55FFW- PARAMY MOPES (1778) M Barries 15-10-10
55F9W- PARAMY MOPES (1778) M Barries 15-10-10
55F9W- PARAMETER PARAMETER (15) 8 Elisen 5-10-4
55050 WHATTARE PARAMETER (15) 8 Elisen 5-10-4
55055 SHILTOWN MUSES (20) (C) 7 Dyer 7-10-0
55955 SHILTOWN MUSES (11) W Smith 15-10-0 Betting 7-2 Jonove, 9-2 Reliegio. Copportunat. 7-1 The Laughing Lord, 8-1 Rivers End. 30-1 Hillow 13 remotes 3.25 MIN LIFE OF CANADA HANDICAP CHASE IN ES,303 27:341 PAYALIDON RULLDG (20) (CD) Nies L Russell 9-11-16 P1-21UU CHELLON ROY (35) (D) Nig J Goodlelow 10-11-8 4-F64PP PRONT LURE (85) J O'Neil 9-11-1 23P311 MINIFA (6) (4th ex) (D) G Richerds DGUS2P NORM DEEP (3) (RF) B Rotherel 10 FM-8632 ASTRIGES (41) (D) J FiziGerald 4-1

lug: 7-4 Photologii Bolicis. 3-7 Astivage, 7-2 Nordy, 5-1 Carloth Boy, 10-1 Born Doup, 14-1 Front Line. 6 resease 2)2205 STASH THE GASH (2) (0) T Dyer 5-11-19 571441 MICHELANK (18) (0) Mrs M Paveloy 4-13-1 14622 CURRENT SPEECH (2) (5) T Ensterby 5-11-0 810504 MARCO MAGNIFICO (7) (D) 7 Dyer 5-10-6 70424 MINEAY (20) M Barnes 5-10-4 2002-11 DAPHNES (272) (CD) W Kerep 7-10-2 144400 PEGGY GORDONI (25) Mrs D Trommon 5-10-6 (T) F Louisy (B) 3/-00 BOHZER (193 J Fee Gents 7-10-0

132-124 BETTY'S BOY (44) K Basy 7-11-12 119244 FIFTYSEYSBICHAMBLE (18) (3) May J Brown 7-11-12 182112 ROCKET RUM (2) (3) May J Brown 7-11-12 187232 EAST HOUSTON (2) J O'Neil 7-11-7 042253 WHITE DIAMBORD (11) (8F) Mas L Russell 8-11-3 . A Dobble . A Thurston 5.00 TOR OVER & CO. STANDARD OPEN HATCHIAL HUNT PLAT (DIN I) 2ml 1 10/ds 22,51 **TORR O'VER & CO. STANDARD O'VER MATCHAIL

1-18 ANSTRUMENT (144) J FORGORIS 6-11-12

2-12 CALLEMENT DAN (144) J Edwards 6-11-2

5 EXPLAINT OF RISK (61) W CARROLLE 5-11-2

5 ELEMENT OF RISK (61) W CARROLLE 6-11-2

5 ELEMENT OF RISK (61) W CARROLLE 6-11-2

5 HOLISELOPE RISKOK G FRAS 5-10-11

CALLANT MAJOR IN BERNAS 4-10-10

AND CRIVE K NORTH 5-10-10

HADARKAY LAD J PRINTE 4-10-10 Mr A Rob

5.30 tom dyer 4 cd. standard open kational hunt flat (DM 2) 2m 110/46 12/480

Results

BEVERLEY 2.10 (50): 1, MAJOR GUALITY, D Herri-801 (13-6 (24): 2, Commine (33-1): 3, Dark Beed (2-1): 12 nm. 5, 1% (J Fanshree) Top. 02.60, C1.30, C24.40, C1.20 Dual F. C159.50 Trio 2228.60, CSF: C47.78, NR: Autoberry. 22.60; C1.30, (22.40, 51.20 Dual F. (159.50. Trio 122.80; CSF: 07.70 NR; Authobarty. 2-40 (fax 1f 207.yels); 1, 2004TG; 24.60 (fax 1f 207.yels); 1, 2004TG; 26.80 (fax 1f 207.yels); 1, 2004TG; 26.80 (fax 1f 20.10); 25.00; 10.10; 25.00; 11.10; 25.00; 11.10; 25.00; 11.10; 25.00; 11.10; 25.00; 25.10; 25.00; 25.10

Bashmebourds
4.10 (1 m 19 207) vish; 1, DARLING CLOVER, M Fromin (12-11: 2, Enthmo Ned (11-4
fev); 3, Maradhai (3-1); 4, Anobovens
(4-7); 18 car, X IX (D Morley) Tote 7: 9, 10;
CS.70, C1.40, C1.70 C1.30 Dual F: 649,60.
MF: McGillycuddy Rasks
4.40 (1 m 19 207) vish; 1, FAATED, W
Carson (11-4 by); 2, Chassis Colours
(7-11; 3, Phos Headie (9-2); 10 cn. 2 15; 13
Dunlop; Toter C4.10: £1.50 C2.20 C2 10. Dual

F: £30.50 Trio: £72.30. CSF: £23.23. Triosst: £32.37.
QUADPOT: £19.30. PLACEPOT: £28.30.
JACKPOT: £3,586.50.

Vanelas Williams) Tota: 2.70, 2.100, 21.30, C1.70, Dual F.24, 10. Tric. 24.30, CSF 20.0, 21.30, C1.70, Dual F.24, 10. Tric. 24.30, CSF 20.01, 2.50 (Zen 22); 1, POLIDEM PRIDE, B. CLI. 10. Tric. 15.-20; 2, Biller's An Ace 110-17; 3, Ramester (14-1), 5-1 for Black (Durch, 15 or 15.80; 12. Tric. 18. Tric. 25. Sc. 25. C1. 25. C1. Deal F. 65.50, Tric. 22. Sc. 25. C1. 25.

Ouel F: C12.50. Trav 65.60. CSF: C16.58. 8.20 (200 20): 1, ANTONIO MARIANO, P Hide (6-7): 2, Colertidge (7-2): 3, Pretaria Demoer (11-4). 9-4 (av Whisting Bock. 12 ran. 16, 9, U Girloy Totes: 0.00; 12.20. C1.60, C1.30. Duel F: £12.50. Trior £22.70. CSF: E28.8. GUADPOTI £19.00. PLACEPOTI £258.50.

Daul F. 28. 60. Tric: (20. 30. CSF-C12.58).
4.09 (Santh 1, 1.1771.1 WIRTH-LOOK, Mor V. Incison) (25-1); 2, Romanny King (100-S0); 3, Santharn Minsterio (2-1); 7-4 to House, rise, 7 cm. 3.9. (Mrs D Glosco) Toto (23. 10. CSF. 198.58).
4.90 (25m 4f 11 0rds) 1, URBAN DANG-MO, G. CST. 198.58.
4.90 (25m 4f 11 0rds) 1, URBAN DANG-MO, G. CST. 198.59.
(7-1); 3, Santhar (8-4 lay); 7 cm. 2, nk. (8



3.40 SANDOWN WILE 1- 035,00

\$125-0 \$00*RET LIBER (195 D) M Shows 8-8-8
182214- BESHOP OF CARMEZ, (216) (D) J Fanel
2222-3 DECORRED MERIO (195 (D) J Gooden
2242-35 PERST ISLAMD (9) (D) G Marge 48-0
182104- GARN (8) (D) R Amstrong 6-8-0
182104- GARN (8) (D) R Amstrong 6-8-0
62115- MEZAR (1945) (C) 6014-9-3
18252- MSA (2222) (C) (D) D Luder 5-8-0
18252- M 103262- LAP OF LIDCORY (196) (CD) W. hevis 7-10040- MYSELF (194) P Chapple-Hysen 4-8-11 TOP PORM TIPEs been & Myself 7, Mistis Cat &

Pat Eddary 11 J. 1984 13 A Daly (6) 18 G Dudfold 14 Ji 1984 8

Beltings 3-1 Myself, 5-1 Inser, 5-1 Part Inland, 7-1 Hor poet to first). NJO: Tracked leaders, effort 21 out, not quicken near finish whea both 10 by BiSHOP OF CASHEL (rec Sib) led

Channel 4

4.10 GUILDFOND HANDICAP IN TOUR DIÇON 4111/- ERZADJAM (977) Mrs M Prockly 6-10-0 405-00 CYPPERS A VIDENUE (7) P Hisman 4-9-6 3/23-2; SPRED TO LEAD (9) (Mrs) H Cacil 4-9-4 2-26(5) TOY PRINCESS (10) (46-6) F Hisman 4-6 5-45-4-7 LEAR DANCES (40) (10) (Mrs) P Mischell 5 365-3 DANTER (1855) P Richard 4-8-7 365-3 DANTER (1855) P Richard 4-8-7 3-700-5 CALL MY GUEST (10) R Proceeds 6-8-4 3700-5 CALL MY GUEST (10) R Proceeds 6-8-4 3700-5 CALL MY GUEST (10) R Proceeds 6-8-4 3000-2 HATTAAFEH (10) Miss B Seeders 5 641621- BOCKY FORDM (286) (D) G L Mon TOP FORM TIPE Scool To Look S, Dector 7, Heiler

Betting: 3-1 Speed To Lead. 6-1 Historieh. Toy Princess. 7-1 Erzadjan, 8-1 Derter, Cycress Avenue. Sariori Sovereige, 10-1 Passine New. COSts Lact grown 25 put writh final fastlering repair Styl of 5, the 254, to killes Pin Lip (Yarracosti 7m 31 177ydd ben, gnod to Brasi. MARAANSE RAYY: Outpated straight, acon 4o dangar, 4th ol 13, bin 13t, bi La Brail (Southwell Its. hep.

4.45 SUBSEY RACING HANDICAP (CLASS C) SI CS,784 271469- MASTRIC OF PASSION (2021) (19) Estatos 7-0-0
130010- TURICE AS SHARP (2022) (19) P Haris 40-8
52:40- GLORIOUS ARADON (2:16) R Johnson Houghiga 4
40:53-0 TART AIRO A HALF (14) (2) B Meshan 40-1
10:00-0 SALLY SLASE (16) (1) C Cycor 40-1
5000-0 SRI JOHN (18) (3) P Murphy 7-0-1
00004- ASHTTRA (1405) (9) B Parez 11-0-10
4120-0 THEER CHARTON (16) (7) M Sendon 5-0-8
1040-0 THEER CHARTON (16) (7) M Podage 7-0-3
401-1 GALHER (8) (6% ex.) (2) W O'Gornen 3-0-4
244000 HALESHER (14) (8) P Burgoyan 7-0-3 (7) 14 Ji Trobett 15 G Hind 8 A College 1 G Hamon (7) 3 42)-0 MILTAN (18) 8 L Noore 4-7-12 . 40(6)- GOME SAYAGE (186) (CO) W Ma 1015-00 FOLLOWINGUIRLS (18) (D) Lits A King 7-7-10 213180 OUR SHADES (4) K trony 8-7-10 TOP FORM TIPS: Michar Jelson 10, Seigns Betfings 5-1 Seigneenst. 6-1 Gallen. Texas As State, 8-7 Mainter Of Passion, Mister Johann, 10-1 Lennter 18 receipts

5.20 APRIL MATRICI FILLED STAKES STO 1 = 21 CARSE 252- ALESSANDRA (1983 B Hills 6-11 _____ 5- ANNEXY (189) H Cara 5-11 _____ (5- ANTIGOAH JAME (187) R Armstrong 8 43- FLAME VALLEY (238) M Stocks 5-11 ... OTHLOBER (192) P Chepple-Hyam 5-11 AMERICA BING M Counton 5-7
POREST MERCHTS Mrs J Cool 5-7
MANAAN W Not 5-7
QUOTA HOCKES 6-7
UNICAL DOVED D LOSET 8-7

RACELINE

David Lacey on the goalless draw and missed chances of Terry Venables' team against Croatia on Wednesday

England look lost without Shearer

pean Championship against Switzerland, there should be a national day of prayer for the well-being of Alan Shearer's

This may represent a su-preme act of faith, since the that chances have been creman in question, even when country in nearly two sead in roughly the same ratio.

Sons. But to pretend that England Sons. But to pretend that England Sons. But to pretend that England Sons. September England Struck | September England St

ETWEEN now and ing a decent fist of the finals crossbar or post three times. a game under his belt and the pre-match talk about a Darren Anderton and Shearer goal where the capacity for June 8, when Eng. June 8, when Eng. June 8, when Eng. June 9, when Eng. June 9

Another goalless night at Wembley on Wednesday, against Croatia this time, reemphasised the point. The good news about Terry Venables's team this season is ated at a greater rate. The bad

headed against the bar. On Wednesday Steve McManaman hit a post.

At least these scoring at-tempts found the edges of the target. The point-blank shots put high and wide by Robbie Fowler and Teddy Sheringham this time were less excusable

England by now that there is a world of difference between knocking heads off dandelions in the Premiership and scoring goals against European defenders who know their stuff. The first touches of Ferdinand and fowler have appeared indiffer-ent at the higher level. The three-man defence had cause to be grateful that Suker and Boksic were not greatly in-clined to stress what was

Statements get misheard amid the hubbub of a post-

match press conference and

this may have been a case in point. Either way, the only things that do goalscorers any

good are goals, and the lack of them remains the most wor-rying aspect of England's run-

It should have dawned on

really needed.

In fact Croatia's entire approach was only marginally more interested than that of Bulgaria a mouth earlier. All

much Balkan Sobranie. The more words swamp

these occasions the more blage become. Those Bisham Abbey rituals, when England players are either just happy to be in the squad and never mind about being in the team, or are delighted to be in the team but would have been happy just to be in the squad. are becoming tiresome.

Word went round this week

be giving interviews. Far from hurling themselves grief-stricken into the nearby Thames, the scribes retired to the pub for a period of thanksgiving.
There really is not much

left to say. From now on, all put ourselves under pressure that really matters is what everywhere. It was always a happens, or does not happen, scrap; every pass, every ball happens, or does not nappen, on the field. Venables has achieved the semblance of a balanced team but will be in Yet England are still predictable in those areas near

the three, Shearer is causing least concern. With the others it is touch and go. Miroslav Blazevic, the Cro

atia coach, dropped some acid into Wednesday's proceed-ings when he described Eng-land as "sterile and predict-able". He was half right Venables's team is hardly sterile. An encouraging pattern of patient, possessive football has developed this

season. In the build-up to attacks the passing has become quite profound. As the England coach said later: "We're getting players into areas where they're not pressurised by the opposition, where they're getting space and time. We always used to go and mark our markers and everywhere. It was always a scrap; every pass, every ball was a scrap. I think we're get-

into the middle, too much de-pended on Steve Stone's crosses reaching the head of Sheringham, not a ploy likely to cause sleepless nights in

Italy or Germany.

Only Paul Gascoigne in recent years has consistently produced the unexpected for England, and, as his fading

England's next match is against Hungary on May 18, followed by the Far East tour to China and Hong Kong. By then Venables will know his squad. Woe betide him if Shearer's groin has a relapse. The happiest sight for Eng-land on Wednesday was Scot-land's defence being diced by

Robson contribution showed, he is not the player of 1990; and neither is David Platt. Peter Beardsley can still destroy a league defence with wit and skill, but in this respect McManaman is the only viable alternative for Euro '96. England's next match is 1999

Mark Redding

NGLAND had one avenue blocked in their quest to replace Terry Venables when Bryan Robson signed a new contract yesterday keeping him at Middlesbrough until 1989.

"I think the England job. if it was offered, would have come a bit too early," ex.

helped persuade him to stay.
"I am looking to bring in more quality players for the start of next season," he said.
"However, the deciding factor that really swayed me was the way that the people of Tees-side have backed the team and turned up in their droves

On the opposite side will be Loughlin, a loser with Saints in the 1987, 1989 and 1991 fin-als and keen to prove that the future was here. That was good enough for me. He has club to whom he gave such long and devoted service

ment in letting him go.

There is also the emerging
Matt Calland. Two weeks ago when Bradford played St Hel-ens at Knowsley Road, they lost 26-20 but gave Saints a severe fright as their centre Calland ran in a hat-trick. used colliery site. The Wear-siders should clinch the First

"Newlove's a good player. But I stopped him that day and I don't see any reason why I cannot do it again," says Calland. He might, too, but of all the

made a serious error of judg-

players on view tomorrow Newlove is the class act. In choosing a world team one might find it hard to include him. But it would also be mighty hard to leave him out. Eric Hughes, who was dismissed as St Heiens coach in January, has been appointed coach to Second Division this week. Hughes, aged 43, His talents make him a has signed a 3½-year

leading candidate for the contract.

BBC retains grip on the cup executive of the Rugby Football League, said: "It is fair to say that our negotia-

head of sport and events, said: "This deal maintains our relationship with the

It was offered, would have come a bit too early," explained the England No. 2 yesterday. "I'd like to have more experience at club level before I took that step."

Robson, whose present contract expires next summer, said the promise of more spending money from his chairman Steve Gibson had belond cersuade him to stay.

week in and week out." Gibson emphasised: "I only England job and he said his

ilways been true to his word and once he had given it we left the speculating to others. Further evidence that the North-east is the place to be these days came when promoted Sunderland signed up for work to begin on a new £15 million stadium on a dis-

Division title tomorrow at home to West Bromwich. Meanwhile Newcastle's Faustino Asprilla scored the only goal in Colombia's home victory over Paraguay in a World Cup qualifier on Wednesday. As ever, nothing was plain sailing for the striker and he got back to his hotel room to discover he had been robbed of £1,000 and the

obligatory gold chain. to improve all the time. I'm has been building here for coach to Second Division Further south Scunthorpe very happy to be coaching some time and you feel that be an explosion Lucas, who was dismissed as their manager for the second time. Buxton, who was in charge from 1987 to 1991 at Clanford Park, returned as caretaker two months ago to

match unbeaten run. Sheffield Wednesday's inury afflicted striker David Maurice Lindsay, chief Hirst is ready to end specula-executive of the Rugby tion about his future by sign-

ing a new contract.
"I am very happy to stay
and I'll do so if the deal is
right," he said. "I've been here almost 10 years and I've enjoyed it apart from the injuries."

Gary Mabbutt was also in the pink after agreeing a fresh two-year deal. "There are exciting times ahead at Tottenham over the next cou-ple of years." said the captain.

FA denies China crisis over pot-holed pitch

THE FA remains confident that England's stumbling in a pot-hole

Carlos

is next

Michael Britten in Valencia

OT for nothing is the province of Valencia known as the orchard of Spain. It is not only or-

anges that grow on trees in this part of the Iberian penin-

old European amateur cham-

pion, has already made his

mark in Britain and else-

where, but Carlos de Meral is

only 10 years old, and he had

glimpse of his idol Seve Bal-lesteros and the rest on the El

Yet yesterday Peter Baker, who was hailed as Britain's

boy wonder when he beat Nick Faldo in a play-off to win his first professional title

eight years ago, was still talk-ing about De Meral, one of his

partners in the pro-am pre-lude, after the Midlander

swept back to his best form

nearly as big as he is," he said. "He is the most stylish

young player I have ever seen. Watching him brought home to me how important

are good technique and

year-old champion. Already his handicap is down to 12

and when he demonstrated his swing to Ballesteros the

Ryder Cup captain declared: He is better than I was at

that age." De Meral may well have a

glorious future, which looks

beyond Ballesteros after another mediocre performance

yesterday. He shot 76 and, de-

spite near-perfect conditions of warm sunshine and gentle

breeze, managed only one birdie to trail the leading trio

of Fabrice Tarnaud, Ross

McFarlane and Diego Borrego

De Meral is the Spanish 10-

"It was amazing to see such a slender young boy hit the ball so far with a driver

with a first-round 67.

Saler links this week.

king

sula, so does talent,

Golf

game in China on May 23 while playing for Arsenal. "If the pitch isn't right we won't go," Venables gailed to China and reported that to happen because they that to happen because they could next week to check out the Workers Stadium, where last year David Sea-

Umbro Cup. The FA's travel manager

Rugby League

Newlove, a centre of attention

part exchange.
For St Helens the record

package represented a massive psychological break-

through in the battle with

their arch-rivals Wigan.
David Howes, the club's chief executive, says: "The board here were very ambi-

tious but there were certain

things we had to do in a short

period of time to convince the St Helens public in particular

and rugby league in general that we meant business. "Paul Newlove's signing

showed that we could raise the money, albeit through sponsorship and loans; that

Paul's class to come to Knowsley Road; and that we

had strength of purpose, drive

Not that Newlove, whose heart was no longer with Bradford, needed much per-suading to join Saints. "This

is a good young side, with youngsters coming through all the time. The excitement

and determination.

Paul Fitzpatrick on the proven Saint facing sponsors for the first man to score three tries in a Wembley final. But for all his impressive qualities, Newlove may not have the centre stage all to himself.

McRae is concerned someone must have been telling lies about Paul Newlove, the St Helens and Great Britain centre who will be aiming to con-found his former club Bradford in tomorrow's Silk Cut Challenge Cup final at

The Australian coach, who arrived at Knowsley Road from Carberra seven weeks Odsal, had heard some worry-ing tales about the club's £500,000 acquisition. He is still wondering why.
"The things I had heard

about him were completely unfounded." says McRas. "I had heard that he was lazy and just wanted to play his own game; basically that you could not talk to him.

What I have found is that he has got the qualities of a champion athlete: he's coachable; he's willing to learn; he trains hard; he talks a lot about his game and he wants

It has not taken McRae long to appreciate that he has a thoroughbred under his control rather than a prima donna, and he reckons that Newlove is up there with Brisbane's Steve Renouf as one of the best centres in the world. Newlove also reminds him of Mal Meninga, and references do not come much more glowing than that.

"Like Mal he's a match-winning player: the type of athlete that can get you out of a bit of strife," says McRae. St Helens went to their limpaid £250,000 in cash and let three players, Paul Loughlin, Bernard Dwyer and Sonny Michael Steels Nickle, all of whom are in the

THE BBC yesterday deal for live coverage of the Rugby League Challenge Cup, writes Andrew Culf. The deal secures one of the sporting mainstays of BBC1's Grandstand during the winter. It ensures the BBC has a continued presence in rugby league cover-age, which had been in doubt since Sky Sports

tions with the BBC have been lengthy, but we are de-lighted at the new agreement and the rights fees we will receive."

Jonathan Martin, BBC's

game's millions of fens at a time of change."

Class act . . . Paul Newlove reminds the Saints coach of Mal Meninga

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Sport in brief

Tennis

Spain's top two women players Conchita Martinez and Arantza Sanchez Vicario have agreed to play in their country's Fed Cup tie against South Africa after sorting out a pay dispute with their federation.

Swimming Scott Miller clocked 52.56sec. the second-fastest time ever for 100 metres butterfly, at

Rugby League

TURNESPARA MASTERS (Valencia, Sp):
Leading first-round scarce (CB/Ird unless stated: "=maisuri, 66 R McFartane;
F Ternaud (Fr); D Borrego (Sp), 67 N
Briggs; T Johnstone (Zim); F Saker, A Cabrers (Arg), 68 C Hall; R Burns; A Sherborns; O Karisson (Swe), 69 G Ceviter
(Fr); I Garrido (Sp); G Turner (NZ); W Rilley
(Aus), R Chapman; W Westers (SA); C
Suneson (Sp); I Pyman, 70 D Gillord: C
Roccs (II); F Cae (Sp); D Febrety; "A Pastrana (Sp); J Robson; R Colest; P Haugarud
(Nor) 71 L Westwood; M Bessnroarey (Fr);
J Lomas; M Farry (Fr); E formero (Arg); J
Payne, M Gronborg (Swe) J Van de Velde
(Fr), M Prero (Sp); A Collisson, J Haeggmati (Swo) S Bohamley, C O'Conner (w. E)

Australia's Olympic trials yesterday. Russia's Denis Pankrotov, who has beaten Miller three times, awaits him in Atlanta.

Rugby League

A 15-year-old schoolboy player is fighting for his life in hospital after collapsing during the interval of a junior cup final. Gavin Williams suf-fered a suspected heart attack while playing for Feather-stone and Castleford Boys against Oldham Boys at The Willows. The match was

Herrington: A Coltart M Gales; M Litton; R Kartsson (Swe); J Pinero (Spi: P Sjoland (Swe); S Richardson. 72 H Bayrmann (SA); F Lindgren (Swe); F Roca (Sp); M McLean; R Drummond; P Walton: R Raferry; G Nicklaus (US); J Cabo (So); S Capo, J Grij; J Coores (Arg); P Broadhurst D Hospital (Sp); F Valera (Sp); M Martin (Sp); M Machazalo; J Elderton; I Moral (Sp); M Machazalo; J Elderton; T Munoz (Sp); M Nachazalo; J Elderton; T Munoz (Sp); S Timning (Don); T Gagele (Ger), S Torrance; P McGinlay; P Hodbiom (Swe); P-IJ Johansson (Swe); G Emerson; R Russeli; J Cantzares (Sp); M Roe; D Carter.

Tenniss

NONTE CARLO OPER: Third round: T

Bastar (Auf) bt C Moya (\$9) 6-2, 7-6, A

Costa (\$9) 8t A Agassi (US) 6-2, 5-1; M

Blos (Chiel bt B Becker (Gar) 6-4, 8-2; F

Bantilla (\$9) bt J Sanchez (\$9) 3-6, 7-6,
6-4; C Costa (\$9) bt P Kords (\$2) 6-4, 6-1; M

Constructions (\$we) bt F Santoro (\$r) 7-6,
6-1; S Schmitten (Neth) bt R Krajlock
(plain) 5-7, 7-6, 6-4, C Plaine (\$r) bt A

Medvedov (Usr) 4-6, 5-0, 6-2

SPRIMG SATELLITE (Edinburgh); Mean

Second round: J Delgade (GB) bt M

GOOGATZ (\$Au5) 6-0, 6-2; P Beccheutin

(\$3) bt S Bondermann (Ger) 6-4, 6-2; D

Supplered (GB) bt R Barbler (\$r) 6-2, 8-4

T Schlesseling (Aut) bt R Nickish (Ger)
6-3, 6-1; P Kilderry (Aus) bt T Sprints

(\$6] 6-4, 6-3, F Deredo (Ur) bt D Sanders

(\$6] 6-6-0 A Du Puin (\$r') bt P Pain

(\$6] 6-6-0 A Du Puin (\$r') bt P A Richardson (\$6] 1-6, 7-6, 6-2

"It's a real tragedy," said the Salford secretary Graham McCarty. "As far as we are aware he had not been injured during the match."

grabbed exclusive coverage of the Super League.

Başebali

Basketball

ice Hockey

Snooker

KATIONAL LEAGUE WOR

Two of the three best players in England are English, but Tony Dorsey (Birmingham Bullets), a forward from Atlanta, won the Budweiser Player of the Season award yesterday, edging out the England internationals Steve Bucknall (London Towers) and Roger Huggins (Sheffield

DAS-CUDALI
AMERICAM LEAGUSE Minecacts 24, De-iroll 11, Boston 17, Tesas 9: California 4, Milwauker 3; New York 10, Gleveland 8; Caklend 7, Toronto 6; Chicago 2, Seattle 1; Baltimore 11, Karsas City 8; Mattrostal LEAGUSE Pittsburgh 8, Florida 3, Montrosi 7, Cincinnad 6 (10 Into); St. Louis 9, NY 4, Colorado 8, Philadelphia 10, San Francisco 3, Alfanta 8; LA 5, Mouston 2: San Diego 5 Chicago 4.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP: Pool A; Group A: Austrie 2 Stovakis 1. Group B: Finland 5, France 3. MML PLAY-OSFSs Stantary Condensess First rounds Florids 4, Boston 2 (Fiorida lead series 3-Q); Washington 2. Pitisburgh 3 i-th oil (series hed 2-2).

EMBASSY WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

Squash

Paul Johnson, the 23-year-old Londoner who reached the Leekes British Open quarter King offers finals, has won England selec-Lewis a deal tion for next month's European Championships in Amsterdam. He replace England No. 1 Del Harris, recovering from a groin in-jury aggravated during the Super Series finals last month.

incoln), P Johannon (Lo Voldingham), C Walker Thems F General (Gloud (Wakefleld), C Jaco Martin (No. 11)

Soccer ENDSLEIGH LEAGUE S Bradford C v Brendord (7.46)
UNIBOND LEAGUE Pressier Divi Hyde Uid v Droyladen PONTHIS LEAGUES Second Divi

Rugby Union MEMBERS NATIONAL LEAGUE First Division: Nacih v Lispolii Cricket

Jack Massarik

Boxing

ON KING yesterday of-fered Lennox Lewis a chance to challenge Mike Tyson for the WBC heavyweight title — but only if the Briton takes second place to Bruce Seldon in the queue. Lewis's camp are unlikely

to agree to this, having recently won a court judgment that effectively orders the WBC to reinstate him as mandatory No. 1 contender. The day after Frank Bru-no's eclipse by Tyson, King announced that Tyson would re-unify the division by challenging Seldon (the WBA champion) and Frans Botha

(then IBF title holder), both of whom King controls.
The Lewis verdict hampers these plans. Rather than give Lewis first shot, however, King has come up with a typically labyrinthine compro-mise: a Tyson-Seldon fight without the WBC title at

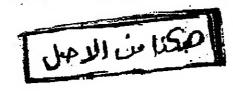
"If Mike wins, the WBC title goes back into effect and the first defence of the WBC title will be with Lennox Lewis," he said yesterday. "If Mike loses, the WBC title is vacant and Lennox Lewis has the opportunity to fight for that title against whoever."

· 14. Tarina ...

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Players rally to Spencer

Clive Everton in Shoffield OHN SPENCER, the OHN SPENCER, the first world champion to be crowned here at the Crucible Theatre ad years ago, refused to comment yesterday on reports that he had placed bets on behalf of the placed bets on the placed bets on the placed between the placed betwe

half of other players in varinalf of other players in valle ous tournaments.

Since he has been chairman of the World Professional Billiards and Snookar Associ-ation, the game's world gov-erning body, for the past five years and a member of its board for 20 more, the real issue is what befits someone in his position.

in his position. ncer has freely admitted Spencer has freely admitted organising "insurance bets" for players who make the early running for a highest-break prize. Indeed, Jimmy white once thanked him on television for doing so.

"John has an account with its and he does have some heavy bets" a spokesman for

heavy bets." a spokesman for william Hill, the WPBSA's official bookmaker, con-

fifficial bookmaker, confirmed last night.

"John has put a bet on for fise but what is wrong with that?" asked Willie Thorne. "I was in Thalland and he has an account. If he's advising players, so what? He knows more about the odds than host." There has been no sugges- matches.

tion whatsoever that any bet has ever influenced a result, yet any association between snooker and gambling spells trouble for the game's image. A year ago, bookmakers warned the WPBSA of excep-

warned the WPBSA of excep-tionally heavy support for Jimmy White to beat Peter Francisco by 10-2. Spencer watched every ball of that match — which White did win 10-2—and was a key wit-ness at a heaving which ended ness at a hearing which ended

ness at a hearing which enter with Francisco being suspended for five years for "insufficient effort".

Spencer is popular within the game and commands sympathy. Forced to end his playing career five years ago because of persistent doublevision, he also endures frequent hours of degression frequent bouts of depression caused by the drugs he needs to take daily to control his condition.

Spencer's protege James Wattana, Thailand's world No. 5, laboured to a 10-8 firstround win over Jimmy Mi-chie, the world No. 68. But the best action of the afternoon was provided by Ronnie O'Sullivan, whose talent may be bursting into full flower at just the right time. He sai out Tony Drago's 144 total clearance but finished the session with century breaks of 100 and 120 to lead 6-2 in the first of the best-of-25 second-round



. Shirley Robertson, a Scot based in Hampshire, wins the second of her three races in the Europe dinghy SHIL AWAY . . . SHIFTEY RODERTSON, A SCOT DESCRIPTION IN IMPORTANCE. She improved 11 places to move into second place class of the Hyères Olympic Week regatta in the south of France. She improved 11 places to move into second place overall, writes Bob Fisher. John Merricks and Ian Walker go into the final day with a 12-point lead in the 470 class; they placed fifth and eighth, but with their main rivals behind them

Pollock adds lustre to a restyled cup

Mark Redding

HE one-day game has come back under the spotlight less than seven weeks after England were given a lesson in tactics by the eventual World Cup win-

ners Sri Lanka. Today's first batch of Benson & Hedges Cup matches begins the season proper by incorporating a new set of rules to mirror those in force during England's recent miliation. The intention is to encourage improvisation within the domestic game. This season only two field-

ers can stand outside the 30-yard "circle" during the first 15 overs, in innings which will consist of 50 overs rather than the 55 last time. Two close catchers, other than the wicketkeeper, must be in place during that opening period, with a maximum of five fielders allowed on the leg side at any time. The new rules prompted Sri

Lanka to turn the conven-tional approach on its head by setting off at a rate of knots rather than going for broke only at the end. In contrast England consistently laboured to score more than 60 runs from their opening 15 overs.
The B&H Cup should be brightened further by the arrival of the South African

Arrivals: I E Bishop, S Lee, KJ

Shine (from Middlesex).

Departures: Mushtaq Ahmed.

Seneficiary: Richard Harden.

One to watch: lan Bishop (not

that one, but he does bowl fast). Odds: Championship 28-1, NWT 16-1, B&H 33-1, SL 50-1.

Championship: 12, 7, 6. Limited overs: NWT, R2; B&H,

THERE was a lesson for English cricket in the World Cup. West

pointing tournament by getting rid of their captain, their manager and their coach; England set up a working party. Surrey, after years of chronic under achievement, have finally responded by encounting a new

responded by appointing a new chairman, Mike Soper, a new chief executive, Paul Sheldon,

and a new coach, Dave Gilbert.

The captain, "Gaffer" Alec Stewart, will surely be the next

done when the South African

Brian McMillan pulled out. Surrey's potentially brilliant bat-

ting simply has to improve; no one finished in the top 50 in last

son's first-class averages. Arrivals: B C Hollioska, B P Ju-lan, C C Lewis (from Notts), R M Pearson (from Essex).

Departures: M R Bainbridge, C G Rackemann.

Beneficiary: David Ward.
One to watch: Alex Tudor
Odds:Championship 20-1.

Rating: ***

NWT 16-1, B&H 9-1, SL 14-1.

Championship: 15, 8, 10. Limited overs: NWT, R2; 8&H, group; SL, 10th. Wisden table: 16th.

SUSSEX have a reputation for playing attractive cricket, and

the new coach Desmond
Haynes has nothing against that.
But the players will discover that
Haynes, who was familiar with
success at Middlesex, has a
quick temper if short-changed in
the matter of commitment.
Martin Spelght, who missed
the whole of last season because of a virus, is fit again and

cause of a virus, is fit again and

should give a lift to the under-achieving middle-order.

Ian Salisbury can be a match-winning bowler but only when he has runs to play with. Vasbert Drakes has a difficult job replac-ing Franklyn Stephenson but there are plenty of pace options with Ed Giddins, Jason Lewry

and Paul Jarvis, who owes the club a good season.

is: V Drakes, R Rao.

Arrivale: V Drakes, R Rao.

Departures: E E Hemmings,
J A North, M T E Peirce, C Remy.

M Smith, F D Stephenson. Overseas player: Vasbert Drakes (WI).

Beneficiary: Alan Wells. One to watch: Nicky Phillips

B&H, group; SL, 2nd. Wisden table: 5th.

estalin: Dermot Reeve

THE champions are seeking a

should give a lift to the under-

Captain: Alan Wells.

the new coach Desmond

Indies responded to a disap

group; SL, 9th. Wieden table: 2nd. Captain: Alec Stewart.

tating: **

Surrey

all-rounder Shaun Pollock. He goes straight into Warwick-shire's side for the game against Leicestershire at

Edghaston. With Phil Simmons on Wes Indies Test duty and Nigel Briers out with a knee injury.
Leicestershire's second-team
captain Phil Robinson is
likely to be called up to bolster the middle-order batting.
The cup holders Lancashire

give fitness tests to Peter Martin and Neil Fairbrother before their match against the Minor Counties at Old Trafford and may blood their 20-year-old all-rounder Richard Green.

Northamptonshire are set to promote their all-rounder David Capel to open the bat-ting at Worcester and have in-cluded their new player-coact ciuded their new player-treat;
John Emburey in the squad.
Meanwhile Andrew S;
monds is desperate to play fc
England — allegedly — ar
will be watched by the Te
selector David Graveney
Gloucestershire take on Si Gloucestershire take on Si

Gloucestershire's chief ex utive Philip August said of t batsman, who holds dual cl zenship for England and Au tralia: "He has signed the de laration that he will play it England if selected. That i the end of it. Even if he won'tell you himself, I know he i. bursting to play for England."

by Paul Weaver

COUNTY GUIDE TO THE 1996 SEASON

Derbyshire

Championship (lest three see-sors, 1995 first): 14, 17, 15. Limited overs (1995): NWT, 6-4; B&H, eliminated group stage; Sunday league (SL), 8th. Wisden Championship Table 1948-95: 12th. Saptain: Dean Jones.

WRITE a compelling opening thapter and end with a flourish, espiring novelists are told, and You can get away with a lot of dross in the middle, but it does stot hold in county cricket. Derbysister won their opening match of 4995 by an imings and 379 runs and their last by 282 runs, but with only two other championship victories the long summer chapters dragged more painfully given a flatful of Jeffrey Archers. Direction was poor on and off the field; any committee that goes on to nominate ian Botham as a Test selector must be a ball whost of a full wicket. But their new captain Dean Jones, replacing Kim Barnett after 13 as

in charge, should bring new vig-The Sheffield Shield coach at Vicibria, Les Stillman. Inntente: KJ Desn, DM Jones, SJ Lacey, M R May, B

m, DJ Cullinan, WA Des-Maur, TW Harrison, BJM Maher, & Richardson, I GS Steer, i Taylor.

as player: Deen Jones Reneficiery: Derbyshire CCC. Die to wartch: Andy Harris. Odde: Championship 28-1. NWT 14-1, B&H 20-1, SL 16-1. relings ***

Durham

Championship: 17, 16, 18. Limited overs: NWT, Round 2; B&H, group; SL, 16th. Captain: Mike Roseberry. A NEW ground and a new capin but the same old story at

Durham last season, where they evoided their third wooden spoon in four seasons only by inning their last match. Durham have taken over from Glamorgan and Derbyshire as the Last Chance Salcon for county players: so many men have they employed from other counties, Flotsem and Jetsem counties, Flotsem and Jetsem could well be Durham's opening attack. And though there will be a much stronger local flavour to

the dressing room this season,

Campbell will be hugely

must have heartened Durham fans with his outstanding Test form against New Zealand in Barbados last week.

Arrivale: C Campbell, SL Camp bell, P Collingwood, A Pratt.

Departures: W Larkins, M Prebhakar, M Saxelby, P J Wilcock.

Overseas player: Sherwin

Campbell (WI). Beneficiary: P Bainbridge, One to wratch: Steve Lugsden (right-arm fast bowler).
Odds: Champlonship 150-1,
NWT 66-1, B&H 66-1, SL 68-1.

Essex Chempionship: 5, 6, 11. Limited overs: NWT, R2; B&H,

proup; Si_, 5th. Wieden table: 4th. Captain: Paul Prichard. HARDLY the heavyweight of old but neither was George Foreman when he won the title - and Essex showed they still peck a punch with a five-match winning

run-in to end lest summer. Their positive batting should win matches, as should their experienced spinners Peter Such and John Childs, particularly in the second half of the season, though Mark liott may have too much to do at the

sharp end of the attack. A lack of depth at Essex could be exposed if Nasser Hussain and Ronnie Irani go off to play for England, although the young batsman Andrew Hibbert is

highly regarded.

Arrivals: G Goodwin, A P Grayson, J Grove, T P Hodgson, S
Law, S D Peters, J C Powell.

Departures: M A Garnham, G
Khan, R M Pearson, M E Waugh.

Oversees player: Stuart Law
(Australia).

Beneficiary: Paul Prichard.

One to watch: Andrew Hibbert
(batsman). highly regarded.

Odds: Championship 10-1, NWT 6-1, B&H 10-1, SL 10-1.

ME *** Giamorgan Championship: 16, 18, 3. Limited overs: NWT, s-t; B&H,

group; SL, 6th. Wisden table: 15th. Captain: Matthew Maynard. MATTHEW MAYNARD replaces Hugh Morris as captain as the Welsh club seek to recapture the brio of 1993 when they won the Sunday league and finished third Simosy responship — though he may be distracted at times, as Maynard is one of six county capains to have a benefit. He will be looking for the tal-

ented Adrian Dale and David Hemp to score more heavily this Important.
The West Indies opener repre-sents a gamble but Campbell

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year, but with Mortls and Steve James at the top of the order, plus himself and the consistent Tony Cottey in the middle, runs should not be the problem; vickets almost certainly will be.

The county's heroic seamer Steve Watkin must be given greater support this time; Ottis Gibson is back to help him but the steady all-rounder Roland Lefebvre has retired. The emerging talents include Gareth Ed-wards (off-spin), Dean Cosker (slow left-arm) and the allrounder Andrew Davies. Arrivale: DA Cosker, GJM Ed-

wards, A.W. Evens.
Departures: H. Anthony, D.S.
Phelps, G.H.J. Rees, A.

Maynard. One to wa Odde: Chempionship 80-1, NWT 20-1, B&H 28-1, SL 16-1.

Gloucestershire Limited overs: NWT, q-f, B&H, q-f; SL, 15th. Wieden table: 8th. Captains Courtney Waish. THE off-the-field highlight of the

THE off-the-field highlight of the season could come when chairman of Test selectors Risy Illingworth eaks Graham Gooch to pop along to Bristol to take a look at the remarkable Andrew "I'm a fair dinkum Aussie" Symonds; Gooch is known to prefer fair dinkum Poms when it nomes to Encland. comes to England.
Whatever his nationality, Symonds scored 1,346 champion

ship runs at 56 last season and hit a world-record 20 sixes in nit a wond-record 20 sales in one match. He might have been even more destructive had he betted higher than six.
Courtney Walsh is back but he
will do well to bowl better than

last year's oversees player Java-gal Srinath (87 wickets at 19) or lead the side more competitively than Jack Russell. He needs Monte Lynch, an inspired signing from Surrey, and Mike Smith (left-arm swing) to repeat their fine performances of 1995. Arrivals: R P Davies (from War wickshire), C A Walsh. Departures: M Davies, G Hodgson, V Pike, J Srinath, RC

Williams. Overseas player: Couriney Weish (WI). Beneficiary: Tony Wright. One to watch: Rob Cunlife

(batsman). Odda: Champlonship 25-1, NWT 33-1, B&H 25-1, SL 40-1. lating: ***

Hampshire Championship: 13, 13, 13. Limited overs: NWT, R1; B&H, group; SL, 18th. Wieden table: 10th. Captain: John Steph

AS A men who left Essex to fur-ther his captaincy ambitions, John Stephenson will surely have his leadership qualities fully tested this summer. The county tested this soft the future"—
is "building for the future"—
that wonderful phrase that sesumes the present has been
cancelled and that 1996 will be
expunged from the records.

expunged from the recursion.
Hampshire have finished 13th for the past three seasons and it is hard to see them cloing quite so well again. Mark Nichol so well again, mark increase, who enjoyed two memorable final seasons with the bat, will be missed more for his runs than his captaincy. Robin Smith, a crucial figure, has a benefit. The key to Hampshire's sea son could be how the talented but suky Winston Benjamin responds to the county's new coach Malcolm Marshall. Arrivale: WKM Benjamin, SRG Francis, SM Milbum (from Yorkshire), S Renshaw, G R Treagus.
Departures: N G Cowans.
DP J Flint, DB Goldstraw, T C

Middleton, M.C.J. Nicholas, H. RASmith. One to watch: Jason Laney. Odds: Championship 50-1, NWT 33-1, B&H 16-1, SL 33-1.

Championship: 18, 9, 8. Limited overs: NWT, R2; B&H. runners-up; SL, winners. Wieden table: 11th. Captain: Mark Benson.

KENT won fewer bowling points KENT won fewer bowling points.
44, than any other county last
season and that was the main
reason they finished bottom of
the championship. But they also
won the Sunday league and
reached the final of the Benson
and Hedges Cup, and with alirounders such as Carl Hooper,
Dean Headley, Mark Eatham and
Matthew Fleming it is the oneday game which once agein represents the county's only realisfic chance of success.

fic chance of success. to chance of success.

Martin McCague, if not Alan igglesden, appears to be fully fit and the return to Canterbury of the England-qualified Australian (yes, another one) Duncan Spencer provides another option, although after back through the though after back trouble he

Leicestershire Championship: 7, 2, 9. Limited overs: NWT, R2; B&H,

been the formula at the heart of the county's championship suc-cesses in recent seasons. They could have challenged for the title last season, as they did the title last season, as they did in 1994, but for injuries to David Millns (whose season ended in mid-June with Achilles tendon problems) and Alan Mullally, whose pace was reduced by a side strain. Both are fit again, as is the remarkable Gordon Parsons union into his 19th season.

is the remarkable Gordon Par-sons, going into his 19th season. Last summer he took 53 wickets and scored 501 runs. James Whitaker, 33, finally



may not have the same pace. As captain, Mark Benson must be less conservative.

Lancashire

Wisden table: 9th. Captain: Mike Watkinson. NO Wastim Akram and no David Lloyd, so wickets as well as wisecracks may be in short sup-ply at Old Trafford. Their replace-ments, the South African Steve

tainly have much to live up to.

Lancashire should have done
better in the championship in
recent seasons and the fact the
they finished 12th in 1992, the lest time they were without Wa-sim, cannot do much for their confidence. Gian Chappie, how ever, is said to be back to com-plete fitness and Peter Martin was one of the few good thing

Arrivale: S Elworthy, J.J. Haynes, D M Ridgeway.

Departures: Wasim Akram,
AA Barnett, N P Harvey, D J

worthy (SA). Beneficiary: Mike Watkinson. One to watch: Andy Fintoff. Odds: Championship 6-1, NWT 11-2, B&H 6-1, SL 11-2.

group; SL., 7th. Wisden table: 14th. Captain: James Whitaker.

GOOD fast bowlers on user-friendly Grace Road pitches has been the formula at the heart of

realises his ambition to lead the side and the popular Phil Simmons will be his vice-captain.

Winning ways . . . Dermot Reeve with the NatWest Trophy, one of two titles Warwickshire are defending this season

Tim Boon has gone but that should give Gregor MacMillan a run in the side. Arrivale: V Clarke, J Omnond, C Arrivale: V Clarke, J Omnond, C Remy (from Sussex), P Sim-mons, D Stevens, D Williamson. Departures: T J Boon, W J Cronje, Al Ditta, C D Durant, A

Arrivale: C L Hooper ertures: C Penn, P A de Oversens player: Carl Hooper

Beneficiary: Chris Penn. One to watch: David Fulton. Odds: Championship 20-1, NWT 14-1, B&H 10-1, St. 7-1.

Championship: 4, 10, 14. Limited overs: NWT, q-f; B&H, winners; SL, 4th.

Eworthy as overseas player and John Stanworth as coach, cer-tainly have much to live up to.

to emerge from England's win-ter. The batting, once again, is abundant.

Odds: Chempionship 25-1, NWT 16-1, B&H 40-1, SL 40-1. Rating: *** Middlesex Championship: 2, 4, 1. Limited overs: NWT, q-f;

Sheriyar (to Worcestershire).

mons (WI). Beneficiary: None

One to watch: Gregor

as player. Phil Sim-

B&H, q-f; SL, 17th. Wieden table: 1st. Captain: Mike Gatting. THEY have won the champion-ship six times in 20 years, with five top-four finishes in the past five top-four trinsines in the passes, so it is difficult to knagine Middlesex not challenging once more. Mike Gatting will again be a central figure but their season a central rigore out their season will largely depend on the character of two outstanding players, Mark Ramprakash and Phil Tufnell.

Turnell, so often tormented by self-doubt, will have the additional responsibility of being the ide's senior spinner. John I

missed.
Rampraleash must feel his career is in crisis, and if he does not he should. He was last season's leading scorer, with 2,258 runs, but had more wretched experience at England least runs, but had more wrettered ex-periences at England level. Arrhvales I N Blanchett, M R Evans, D J Goodchild, J P Hewitt, S P Moffat, P E Wellings. Departures: J E Emburey (to Northamptonshire), P Farbrace,

young fast bowler who can bat. K Marc, TA Radford, K.J Shine, C W Taylor, R.S Yeabsley. **Overseas player:** Dion Somerset's best fast bowler Andrew Caddick has more injury problems -- this time with his back — and will not play against Middlesex at Lord's today. Even without their best powlers the side's batsmen

Northamptonshire Championship: 3, 5, 4. Limited overs: NWT, runners up; B&H, group; SL, 13th. Wisden table: 7th.

Captain: Rob Bailey. THE County Ground will not feel the same this season without Al-ian Lamb, beligerent, arrogant and single-minded, exhorting his men. What with "Come on KC"

men. What with "Come on KC"
(Curran) and "Come on Apple"
(Kumble), the stience of the Lamb
has been unknown at Northampton for atmost 20 years.
Now their best batsman and
captain, and their outstanding
bowler in Kumble, have both
gone — but there is still good
reason to suppose Northants reason to suppose Northants can be successful in the champi can be succes onship as well as the one-day

Curity Ambrose returns in place of Kumble but the new captain Rob Bailey will still he itain Rob Bailey will still have lifty spin available from John Emburey. The loss of Lamb should also give more opportuni-ties to the talented Malachy Loye and David Sales. Arrivals: CELAmbrose, TMB Bailey, JE Emburey (from

Middlesex). Departures: CS Aikins, M Bowen, M Foster, A Kumble, A Lamb. seas player: Curtly Am-

brose (Wi).
Beneficiary: AJ Lamb.
One to watch: David Sales
(hard-hitting right-hand bat). NWT 20-1, B&H 12-1, SL 14-Rating: ***

Nottinghamshire Championship: 11, 3, 7. Limited overs: NWT, R2; B&H, q-f, SL, 11th. Wisden table: 17th. Captain: Paul Johnson.

TIM ROBINSON vied with Alian Border for the Captain Grumpy title long before Mike Atherton long. Now that he has handed the captaincy over to Paul Johnson there should be a few more giggles around Trent Bridge — and Chris Lewis, who enage — and criss Lews, who is enough to make any captain lose his sense of humour (and who failed to make a first-class appearance last season), has

gone too. Johnson is also likely to favour more positive cricket, although apart from himself and the New Zealand all-rounder Chris Calms land all-rounder Chris Caims his options here are limited. Ashley Metcalfe, who scored more than 2,000 runs for Yorkshire in 1990, is an interesting signing. The spin department is strong, led by Jimmy Hindson, who had 59 championship wickets last

Arrivals: M Bowen (from North-Arrivale: M Bowen (nom Nork-ants), A A Metcaife (from York-shire), C M Tolley (from Worces-tershire), G E Weiton.

Departures: C Banton, M G
Field-Buss, B N French, C C
Lewis (to Surrey). Overseas player: Chris Caims

Beneficiary: Andy Pick. One to watch: Noel Gie. Odds: Championship: 25-1, NWT 20-1, B&H 16-1, SL 20-1. ting: **

Somerset Championship: 9, 11, 5. Limited overs: NWT, R1; B&H, 9-f; SL, 13th. Winden table: 13th.

Wisden table: 13th.
Captain: Andy Hayhurst.
SOMERSET have shown the capacity to surprise in recent seasons but it will be nothing short of a shock if they emerge as a power this year. Last season Mushtag Ahmed was so important to them that he bowled 928 champloriship overs in taking 92 wickets, and he has gone. His replacement, Shane Lee from New South Wales. is a from New South Wales. is a

will win the lot, judging by the ludicrously short odds offered by the bookles in every competithe bookles in every competi-tion. Last season Warwickshire added two trophies to the three they won in 1994, and certainly no one would bet heavily against more success for the remarkable better the season and his pide this Dermot Reeve and his side this hould be able to seize success should be able to setze success in the one-day competitions—but both openers, Mark Lathwell and Marcus Trescothick, were dropped at times last season.

summer, even without Allan Donald and Roger Twose. Their new signing, the young South African Shaun Pollock, has much to live up to after Donaid and Brian Lara - but then he does have something of a

pedigree. Nick Knight and Dominic Os-there with the tier will again be there with the runs and Tim Munton with the wickets, but once again War-wickshire promise to add up to more than the sum of their parts. Their preparation and leadership set the standard for the rest. Arrivals: M Edmond, S McDon-

aid, S M Poliock, S Vestergaard, M A Wagh. Departures: R P Davis, Asif Din, A A Donald, R G Twose. Overseas player: Shaun Pollock (SA). Beneficiary: Dermot Resve.

One to watch: Stephen Odde: Championship 9-4, NWT 9-2, B&H 5-1, SL 9-2. Pating: ****

Worcestershire Chempionship: 10, 15, 2. Limited overs: NWT, R2; B&H,

s-f, SL, 3rd. Wisden table: 6th. Captain: Tom Moody. A BITS-and-pieces side, and now the bits and pieces are becasualty unless things improve.
The rush overseas signing is
the Australian left-arm seamer
Brendon Julian — perhaps a
gamble, but something had to be ginning to drop off, with Neal Radford and Chris Tolley departed from the team which did well to finish 10th last sea

The middle-order strength of the captain Tom Moody and Graeme Hick will always make them dangerous in one-day competition but their bowling, even led by the splendid Phil Newport, will surely struggle in the four-day game. Richard lilingworth will again be required to bow a lot of overs and so will Stuart Lampitt. Alamgir Sheriyar could prove to be a useful signing from Leicestershire, where his whippy pace surprised a number of batsmen. Arrivais: M Amjab, A Sheriyar (from Leicestershire). Departures: T Edwards, NV

Radford, C M Tolley. Overseas player: Tom Moody (Australia). Beneficiary: Steven Rhodes. One to watch: Paul Thomas. Odds: Championship 11-1, NWT 10-1, B&H 7-1, SL 6-1.

Yorkshire Championship: 8, 13, 12. Limited overs: NWT, s-f; B&H,

q-f, SL, 12th. Wisden table: 3rd. Captain: David Byas YORKSHIRE have not won the championship since 1968 and since then have won just three one-day prizes. The new captain David Byas, however, will be happy to build on a solid season

last year when the club disap-pointed badly only in the Sunday sague. The White Rose has more than a new captain going for it this year. Bob Platt, who once opened the bowling with Fred rueman, takes over from Brian Close as cricket chairman. The Australian Michael Bevan becomes vice-captain and Moxe senior professional. The most exciting new blood is coming through from the club's celebrated youth scheme. So there should be plenty or runs but bowling, especially

runs but bowling, especially spin, is still a worry. Arrivates G.J Batty, I.D Fisher, M.J Hoggard, P.M Hutchison, R.J Sidebottom, M.J Wood. (off-spinner).
Odda: Championship 50-1,
NWT 25-1, B&H 20-1, SL 25-1. Departures: A P Grayson, S A Kellett, A A Metcalie, S M Milburn. Overseas player: Michael Warwickshire Championship: 1, 1, 16. Limited overs: NWT, winners;

Bevan (Australia).

Beneficiary: Peter Hartley.

One to watch: Paul Hutchison. Odda: Championship 14-1, NWT 12-1, B&H 12-1, St. 12-1.

BOINS

King offen

Levels

Robson signs new deal at Boro, page 14 Full county cricket guide, page 15

Sports Guardian

SEEDS FALL ON BARREN GROUND IN MONTE CARLO OPEN





Feet of clay embarrass Agassi and Becker

ANDRE AGASSI suffered the unusual experience of being boosed off centre He was not alone in his court yesterday as the top seeds shrivelled and died in

The larger-than-life American was unable to adhis third-round 6-2, 6-1 defeat by Spain's Alberto

embarrassment. Boris Becker paid the price for a lack of match practice when he went out 6-4, 6-3 to the unheralded Chilean Marcelo Rios, a defeat that left the title-holder Thomas Muster as the only top-10

Agassi blamed time spent. battling on hard courts for his problems in adapting to the slower surface. "It is very difficult, very diffi-cult," he said. "Movement is everything and if you don't move as well as your opponent then you have to play great shots." On Wednesday his fellow

Chang and Jim Courier had also crashed out to claycourt specialists from Spain, as indeed did Sergi Bruguera, who happens to be Spanish himself

Muster beat Carlos Moya, another Spaniard, 6-2, 7-6 to reach the quarter-finals. "My first set was the best I've played this

Time to stop system which beggars belief



Paul Weaver

ished", adding by way of explanation that "it annoys one to give to them and it annoys one not to give to them".

It sounds rather like our leader, does it not, Downing Street's own Mr Bean. But no, those words were uttered by the German philosopher Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche. whose name sounds like a neeze, which is about all any-

one ever got out of him. Now, it is well known that the Germans are duffers at cricket, but Herr Nietzsche obviously knew a thing or two about the county cricket bene-ficiaries, those flannelled paupers from the age of feudal ism, and he was spot on: they should be abolished.

Today marks the beginning of the competitive county cricket season, and for 16 men it will be the toughest summer they have known. Phil Bain-bridge, Paul Prichard, Matthew Maynard, Tony Wright, Robin Smith, Chris Penn, Mike Watkinson, Mike Gat-ting, Allan Lamb, Andy Pick. Richard Harden, David Ward, Alan Wells, Dermot Reeve, Steven Rhodes and Peter Hartley all have benefits or testionials this year. The season has started and with it all the familiar sounds of cricket: bat on ball, the whispered blandishments of Mr Charles Col-vill, and . . . pennies falling into begging bowls.

The players concerned, who are all respected pros — otherwise they would not have been granted this perk of a lifetime - deserve every penny they get. What they do not deserve is the grovelling and humilia tion that goes with it.

Penn, the former Kent fast sponsored curry night when I spoke with him yesterday afternoon. "I felt ashamed and humbled the other day when I had to speak to 100 men from the City, most of whom didn't have a clue who I was, and ask them for money. The benefit system will almost certainly come to an end in the next fev years. Until it does it is a vital source of income for the county pro. But it is desperately unfair on those who don't get one, such as Simon Hinks, who played county

Benefits date back to the shad old days of the amateurs professional class schism. when the loyal pro was gived a few bob to keep him out of the workhouse. They continue, in these days of 100 million TV contracts, because they are like nored by the Inland Revenue. Vell, not ignored exactly - in fact the taxman is looking at 😁 the increasingly large sums with an avaricious eye - but at least not clobbered. A benefit, after all, is uncontracted, ;-

Followers, meanwhile, are happy to reward players who have given years of enjoy ment. And it has always suited clubs to keep their underpaid staff loyal with the vague prospect of a benefit season, often unfulfilled. This usually comes after about 10 years as a capped player and helps clog up the county game with time

This month the admirable Cricketers' Association has set up a pension fund which In a generation or so will compensate those players who have not enjoyed a benefit. Graham Gooch will not be in revealed that Gooch received \$259,371, in addition to the £153,906 he got in 1985 worth about £233,000 today Mike Gatting's 1988 benefit brought him £205,000, or £276,750 in today's money. In 1985 Geoff Boycott earned £147,954 (224,890), and going back to 1904 the great Yorkshire and England all-rounder George Hirst had a benefit worth a remarkable 🖾,700, which would be about £175,000 today, although benefits did not become tax-free until 1930.

APPILY, there are success stories about non-Test players such as Lancashire's Jack Simmons, who in 1980 earned a then record £128,000 (£276,480). and Kent's Norman Graham, who in 1977 received £39,000 (£132,210). The lucky ones play for large, successful counties with big memberships. But Paul Johnson, the Nottinghamshire captain, received only £76.000 last year — less than half Gooch's first benefit. And in 1992, when Derek Prinfrom Essex, the Derbyshire captain Kim Barnett had only

Even they did better than Somerset's Bertie Buse, who was from the age of buckets, sheets and benefit matches. not Wembley concerts and Park Lane dinners. When his benefit match was over in a day he was offered another. 'No thanks," he replied, "I can't afford one.

Mr Nietzsche once wrote a book called The Birth of Tragedy, and old Bertie would have had a chapter to himself.

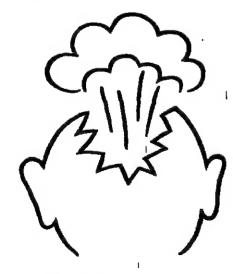
No entry for Rotterdam thugs

Michael Walker and Neil Robinson on Euro '96 security measures after the riot

MAJOR tightening of security for Euro 96 as promised yesterday in response to the crowd violence that marred Wednesday's soccer international between Holland and Germany in Rotterdam.

It was the worst outbreak of hooliganism at an international since England fans vent on the rampage in Dublin last year, and organisers of the European Championship finals said that those supporters who engaged in

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from travelling to Britain.
The bans will be enforced

by the German and Dutch authorities although the Home Office also has the power to issue exclusion orders to prevent known trouble-makers arriving in Britain for the tournament, which begins on

The tournament director Glen Kirton said yesterday: "We have received a full report on the incident from the Dutch FA and the German FA. They have assured us that steps will be taken to prevent the fans who were ar-rested from attending Euro '96.

Working in conjunction with the police, we will continue to target known troublemakers. We do not intend to let a tiny minority of hooligans spoil the enjoyment of the vast majority of law-abiding supporters who will be attending Euro '96.'

On Wednesday a hard core of 1,400 fans, believed to be

many years have they seen one to match a decision taken yesterday by the At-

lanta Olympic Games orga-nising committee, writes

In a move worthy of the Victorians, who used to

drape curtain material dis-

creetly around plano legs, they yesterday ordered two

nude statues at Los Angeles

Coliseum to be covered up

for the start of the Olympic

torch relay. Unable to find

Jack Massarik.

plastic dividers in the De Kuip stadium.

Seventy-one supporters were arrested and two treated in hospital for stab wounds. Damage to the Feyenoord stadium was estimated at £15,000. Police said that rival supporters also fought out-side the ground and at Rotterdam Central railway station. As the clean-up operation began yesterday the stadium manager Helmer Riger warned

the English organisers of Euro '96: 'I hope and pray the same thing won't happen in England, otherwise there could be serious problems." Malcolm George, assistant chief constable of Merseyside

and the officer in charge of policing Euro '96, described the violence as "sickening" and "tragic". He was speaking at yester-

day's security summit at Church House, Westminster. The private meeting orga attached to the German First
Division club Fortuna Cologne, chanted racist slogans,
ball Association representa-

Nude statues shock Atlanta

MERICANS are familiar with cover-ups in public life, but not for familiar task, officials out that the statues, erected are frantically trying to for the 1984 Games in Los

are frantically trying to find some other way of con-

Coliseum officials were

Bret Easton Ellis (a friend) tells Moore

thing I've ever read". Let's say it loud:

that her book is "the most shocking

offensive

this is complete nonsense.

Elizabeth Young

cealing the sexually explicit sections of the sculptures male and female athlete,

from prying eyes.

"It is an indecent way to stadium's Olympic history.

Atlanta Games officials

start the torch relay," said
a member of the Atlanta led by their chief executive, committee, all of whom feared that viewers of to receive the Olympic

tomorrow's nationally tele-vised ceremony at the Coli-seum would find the nudity and transferred by helicop-

shaken too, but for a differ- able for comment".

running battles with Dutch out pipes and seats and used senior security officers from respective police forces.

police would be prevented metal barriers to try to smash from travelling to Britain.

their way through reinforced on how the event will be terdam were photographed by the police and the photo-graphs will be added to the policed. Det Insp Peter Chapman, head of the football unit at the computer data base of blacklisted fans.

National Criminal Intelligence Service, said he would be discussing the violence in Rotterdam with his European counterparts as a matter of urgency. "It's early stages but we will be speaking in the next few days to German and Dutch colleagues and devising a strategy," he said. He revealed that officers

from the Metropolitan, West Midlands and Greater Manchester forces, who will police Dutch and German fans dur ing Euro '95, were in Rotter dam to observe events. Holland are due to play

their first-round matches at Villa Park in Birmingham and at Wembley. Germany will play their games at Old Trafford in Manchester

The Dutch and German associations, like those of all the countries who have qualifled for the finals, are obliged by Uefa to keep detailed records of known trouble-makwrecked lavatories, ripped tives the opportunity to brief ers and liaise with their

for the 1984 Games in Los Angeles, were anatomically

ter to the Coliseum. Last

night they were "not avail-

use of "spotters" — under-cover intelligence police — and the fact that all tickets issued by the FA will bear the purchaser's name. cricket for many years."

Guardian Crossword No 20,637

Set by Gordius

The photographs can be

transmitted by the new photo-

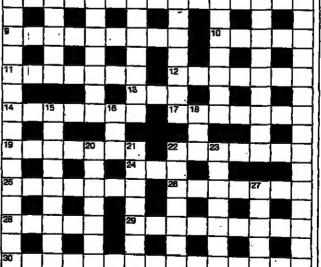
phones installed at all the sta-

diums hosting Euro '96 matches, one of the chief mea-

sures taken to combat poten-

tial hooliganism at the tour-

nament. Others include the



Across

 Drunk on brewer's liquor, politician enters excellent defence (10,5)

9 Lost raptile brought back by no fellow on Lammas Day (9)

11 Symbolic reflection one found in bed (7) 12 Class remains undisciplined (7) 13 Bird feared by Euro-sceptics? (3)

14 Publicity avoids involving Diana's Initial . . . (7) failure to answer charge of strong emotional involvement (7)

19 Love? Give us a ring about it — we've no feelings (7) 22. One who may expect some refusal to start granting easy entry (7)

24 Was she taken from Adam? (3) 25 With 17, turning us into byways...(7)

... and not therein, for a 28 They say it's light to lift (5)

29 Quango to consider military equipment? (5,4) 30 Priest wagged finger at alternative entertainer (15)

Down 1 When it's fixed the time is at hand (5,5,5) 2 Insult to west country town's not on (5)

3 First mount overtaken by similar one near Lewes (7) 4 Signs of power? (7)

5 Turpin's push-over also included accompanying words (5,2) 6 Diana ments a break (7) 7 Threatening child with finality

8 He hopes to have business for life (9,6) 15 English advanced in vain before mating call (9)

16 A letter from 2 . . . (3) 18 ... but first a drink (3) 20 To work fast is beneath the fashionable rich (7)

21 Greeted with a bit of luck instead for a change (7) 22 Called family in to establish

23 Unofficial strike after leading fireman holds the sheet (7) 27 Organ featured in 15 (5)

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